

WHO'S NO. 1?  
BIG 12/BIG TEN/WAC

TEAM PREVIEWS · TOP 40 · SCHEDULES · AND MORE!



# Bob Griese's

Preview '98

# College Football

Petersen's Sport Preview Series

## PRESEASON TOP 40

### CONFERENCE PREVIEWS

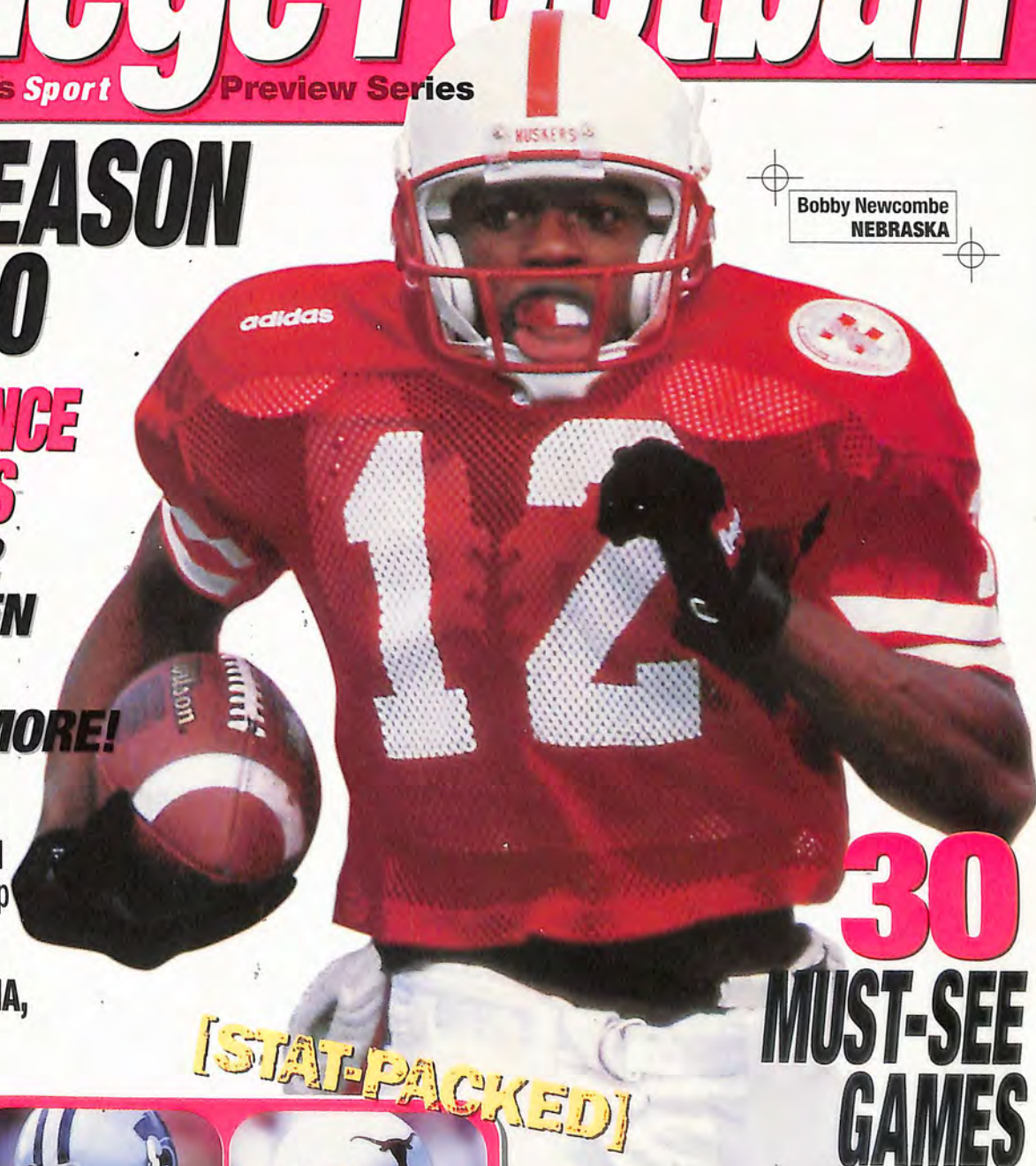
- BIG 12
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- AND MORE!

**PLUS:**

Replacing A Legend  
Can Frank Solich Keep  
Nebraska at the Top?

I-AA, D-2, D-3, NAIA,  
JUCO Previews

Bobby Newcombe  
NEBRASKA



[STAT-PACKED]

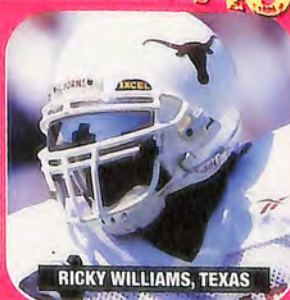
# 30 MUST-SEE GAMES

### TOP PICKS

NEBRASKA  
TEXAS  
KANSAS ST.  
TEXAS A&M  
OKLAHOMA ST.



MICHAEL BISHOP, KANSAS ST.



RICKY WILLIAMS, TEXAS





THERE IS NO LEFT AND RIGHT. JUST ONWARD AND UPWARD.



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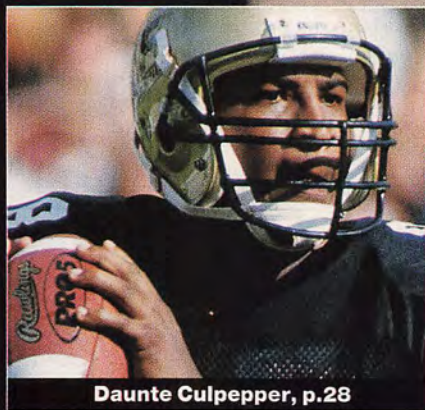
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Bob Griese's

## Notes

[BY BOB GRIESE WITH GARY LONG]

## THE SOLUTION TO FOOTBALL'S NO.1 PROBLEM

**A**t last, everybody's involved. The proud Rose Bowl and the Big Ten and Pac-10 conferences have joined the rest of college football, a Super Alliance is in place, and No. 1 will play No. 2 for the national championship to climax the next four seasons. Three times in the 1990s the post-bowl polls have split the national championship. Voters did it again last January. Members of the media named the University of Michigan in *The Associated Press* poll, while coaches opted for Nebraska in the *ESPN/USA Today* poll. For some, that's unsatisfactory, and the debate over the true champion rages long after the season has ticked down to 0:00 by those who stubbornly insist on an NFL-type playoff.

In fact, only twice in the 1990s has the final game erased all debate. Tommie Frazier and the 1994 Nebraska team destroyed Florida in a Fiesta Bowl battle of the unbeaten, and in 1992 Alabama pasted Miami (Fla.) in a Sugar Bowl showdown of those previously untarnished teams.

Now that Pasadena takes its place in the rotation, the concern is this: Who's No. 1? Who's No. 2? What if Ohio State, Florida and Brigham Young each reach December unbeaten? Or what if Nebraska has a perfect record and Florida State, Syracuse, Arizona State, Michigan and Louisiana State all have one loss? Who plays?

Let's make sure we get this right. Obviously, each of the scenarios above is going to leave a dark cloud somewhere. At least the argument figures to be most heated before the bowls, not afterwards.

Polls are no more than a collection of opinions. Maybe the challenge is to assure that the opinions that count are the most informed. Why not mimic NCAA basketball? Form a blue-ribbon panel, geographically balanced, with nine members. Then elect someone like former coach and present Georgia athletic director Vince Dooley to chair that committee.

Such a panel would be more likely to put a premium on strength of schedule, which is imperative. It would have the courage, if circumstances dictated, to select a once-beaten team that had tested itself against the best over an unbeaten team that had flexed its muscles against the worst.

One thing the panel would *not* do is arrange the matchups in the three other Super Alliance bowls. Nothing irritates me more than to hear critics maligning the Alliance for not matching the No. 3-ranked team against No. 4, and the No. 5 team against No. 6. That never was the intent.

**Last year, undefeated Michigan went to the Rose Bowl while unbeaten Nebraska played in the Orange, opening the door for a split national championship. If those same two teams went undefeated this year, they would likely play each other in an Alliance Bowl ... unless a third undefeated team emerged.**





## WOODSON FOR THE DEFENSE

Michigan cornerback Charles Woodson, a master of big-game timing, broadened the Heisman Trophy umbrella and muzzled detractors of the Downtown Athletic Club's selection process when he walked away with the '97 award.

Whether you favored Woodson or Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning, the pre-eminent individual award in college football grew more lustrous when it didn't predictably go to a passer, pass-catcher or running back.

Although clearly Woodson would not have outpolled Manning had he not complemented his extraordinary pass coverage skills by returning punts and catching passes, running reverses and even acting as decoy, his victory did strike a blow for defense.

### Ready-For-Primetime Players



MICHAEL WILEY-OHIO STATE

(If you haven't heard of these names before, watch out. This is their year to shine)

- QB Tim Couch, Kentucky
- QB Tom Brady, Michigan
- QB Tee Martin, Tennessee
- QB Scott Covington, Miami (Fla.)
- QB Jarious Jackson, Notre Dame
- QB Kevin Thompson, Penn St.
- QB Jeremy Weisinger, Colorado
- RB DeAngelo Evans, Nebraska
- RB Michael Wiley, Ohio St.
- RB Patrick Pass, Georgia
- RB Trung Canidate, Arizona
- RB Aaron Harris, Penn St.
- RB Marques Brigham, Wyoming
- WR Chafie Fields, Penn St.
- WR Dennis Northcutt, Arizona
- WR Laveranues Coles, Florida St.
- WR Nafis Karim, Florida
- DL Josh Williams, Michigan
- DL Courtney Brown, Penn St.
- DL Larry Smith, Florida St.
- CB Brandon Spoon, North Carolina
- LB Lester Towns, Washington
- DB Champ Bailey, Georgia
- DB Mark Roman, LSU
- DB Tommy Hendricks, Michigan
- DB Gary Berry, Ohio St.
- DB Ralph Brown, Nebraska
- DB Ben Kelly, Colorado



# Notes



CHAMP BAILEY-GEORGIA

Woodson certainly had a flare for the dramatic. National television and the marquee game brought out his best. In Michigan's 21-16 victory over rival Ohio State he scored six points with a punt return, set up six with a catch and run, and prevented six with an end zone interception.

How many times do you imagine Heisman voters marveled at a TV replay of Woodson's tight-rope sideline interception against Michigan State?

Now that Woodson has proven it can be done, a Dre' Bly at North Carolina or a Champ Bailey at Georgia could become a more viable candidate in '98. Count on Bly and Bailey lining up at wide receiver on occasion this year to help their chances.

## JOKE'S ON PURDUE'S RIVALS

It was as a Purdue alumnus and an ABC-TV analyst that I heard from Purdue athletic director Morgan Burke. In the midst of a head-coaching change, he wanted to bounce some names and ideas off of me.

The one candidate I knew almost nothing about was Joe Tiller. Watching him on television, he seemed a hearty, robust fellow with an infectious and self-deprecating sense of humor. Tiller achieved success at Wyoming, and with a wide-open passing attack showed that his Boilermakers were an exciting new team. "We're in the entertainment business," Tiller reminds anyone who loses sight of that.

Between the three head coaches who

preceded Tiller (Leon Burnett, Fred Akers and Jim Colletto), Purdue managed only two winning seasons in 15 years. A *Lafayette Journal & Courier* reporter asked Tiller last summer what made him feel he could change that.

"I've got a great staff," Tiller replied. "Leon's coordinators were really suspect." Tiller had been Burnett's defensive coordinator from 1983 through 1986.

That quick wit and "let's lighten up and have some fun" philosophy made Tiller a popular addition. A subsequent 9-3 season that was Purdue's best since 1980 helped a lot, too.

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ...

Never have so many of the mighty in college football fallen so far so fast as in the last season or two. Perennial powers aren't so perennial.

Alabama and Miami (Fla.) paid the toll for past sins that cost them scholarships. The Crimson Tide crumbled to 4-7 under first-year coach Mike DuBose. The Hurricanes, who have won or shared four national titles in the past 15 years, slipped to 5-6.

Alabama, remember, is the last to have beaten Michigan (in the Outback Bowl that climaxed Gene Stallings' career). And Miami had been "up" for so long that 8-3 was a slide "down."

Colorado and Texas both looked like potential top-10 teams before the 1997 season. Rick Neuheisel's Buffaloes staggered home 5-6, and Texas' 4-7 season doomed coach John Mackovic.

Notre Dame plunged to a 1-4 start under first-year boss Bob Davie last fall but, to Davie's credit, did rebound to 7-6. The Irish may need another season of struggle before Davie puts his stamp on the program.

Once-powerful Southern Cal unceremoniously dumped respected John Robinson after a 6-5 season that followed on the heels of a 6-6 finish.

And Oklahoma, so strong for so

long, has won only seven of its past 23 games. Even LaVell Edwards' Brigham Young team hit a 6-5 pothole last year.

Nothing lasts forever. What goes down will come up again.

## SALUTE TO DR. TOM

Tom Osborne's Nebraska teams won 255 games in 25 seasons. We'll let you do the math. The quiet, shy, stoic Osborne had no worlds left to conquer after three of his last four Cornhusker teams won all or part of the national championship that had eluded him for 21 seasons after he succeeded Bob Devaney.

Frank Solich, cut from the same salt-of-the-earth cloth as Osborne, will sustain Big Red tradition. But his task is great. He must replace the quarterback, Scott Frost. He must replace the tailback, Ahman Green. He must replace six offensive linemen plus a tight end, all fifth-year seniors.

However, Solich's greatest challenge is that he must replace Osborne. As a head coach who would have to raise his voice to be softspoken, Osborne also called all of the offensive plays. No one has filled that role at Nebraska in almost three decades; Osborne also called the plays in Devaney's final years as head coach. That's the aspect of Osborne's contribution that's too often overlooked.

## Couch-Potato's Official Guide

(A week-by-week look at this year's 30 best games)



### AUGUST

31 Florida State vs. Texas A&M

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Tennessee @ Syracuse
- Michigan @ Notre Dame
- Washington @ Arizona State
- Ohio State @ West Virginia
- 12 Syracuse @ Michigan
- Texas @ UCLA
- 19 Florida @ Tennessee
- Texas @ Kansas State
- 26 Michigan State @ Michigan
- Washington @ Nebraska

### OCTOBER

- 3 Penn State @ Ohio State
- 10 LSU @ Florida
- Notre Dame @ Arizona State
- Florida State @ Miami (Fla.)
- 24 Missouri @ Nebraska
- Florida State @ Georgia Tech
- 31 North Carolina @ Florida State

### NOVEMBER

- 7 Penn State @ Michigan
- Syracuse @ West Virginia
- 14 Nebraska @ Kansas State
- UCLA @ Washington
- 21 Michigan @ Ohio State
- LSU @ Notre Dame
- Florida @ Florida State
- USC @ UCLA
- 27 Arizona State @ Arizona
- 28 Georgia Tech @ Georgia
- Michigan State @ Penn State
- Miami (Fla.) @ Syracuse

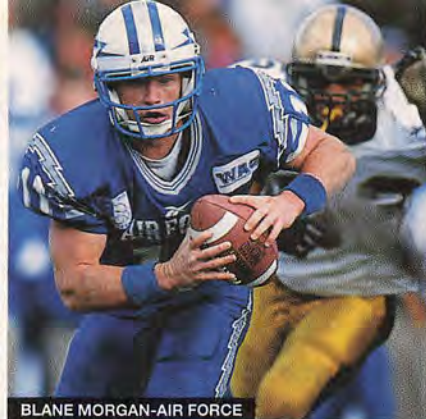


## TIPOFFS OVER KICKOFFS

There are a number of ways to interpret Mack Brown's difficult decision to leave North Carolina for the Longhorn state after the Tar Heels' 11-1 season capped his remarkable reconstruction from back-to-back 1-10 seasons. His departure reinforced the notion that the ACC is, first and foremost, a basketball league. It also could be interpreted as a concession that Florida State, which would be comparably imposing in any conference, will continue to rule the ACC in football.

It especially discouraged Brown that the Tar Heels lost only to FSU last year and yet received little consideration for an at-large invitation into one of the big-money alliance bowls. That may have tipped the scales toward Texas.

Brown, an excellent recruiter who left successor Carl Torbush holes to fill but a solid talent base, will play to a strength as he works to keep high school stars home. He noted that Texas has approximately 1,800 high schools, about five times as many as North Carolina. He'll mine that motherlode.



BLAINE MORGAN-AIR FORCE

## BABY EARL? HE MAY BE

Give Texas tailback Ricky Williams the Peyton Manning Award for rejecting instant wealth to complete his college career.

The price would have been oh-so-right. He figured to be among the first 10 players drafted into the NFL. But Williams, not on scholarship because of his play-for-pay summertime baseball career in the Philadelphia Phillies farm system, concluded that there are certain things money can't buy.

New coach Mack Brown spoke about rejuvenating a once great Texas program with Williams decision to return for his senior season, "Our first signee just happens to be what I feel like may be the best player in college football."

On a personal note, I remember seeing Williams very early in his career, and I remember how some called him Baby Earl. I'm thinking, Wait a minute! I know

Earl Campbell, and you're no Earl Campbell.

Are you even old enough to remember a 1978 Dolphins-Houston Oilers Monday night game when the former Heisman winner for the Longhorns ran for about 865 yards? (Okay, it was only 199.) That's tough to live up to. But I have since been convinced. Williams just may be another Earl Campbell. Any Heisman Trophy contenders list has to have his name among the top three.

## NOBODY PLAYS THAT ANY MORE

Former baseball Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra, master of the malaprop,

## Bob Griese's Notes

once said of a popular Italian restaurant: "Nobody goes there any more. It's too crowded."

The same could be said about the wishbone scheme. In today's world of more innovative, entertaining, quick-strike passing attacks: "Nobody plays the wishbone any more. It's too successful."

Because so few use the option offense, teams such as Ken Hatfield's Rice (7-4) and Fisher DeBerry's Air Force (10-3) can make it work. Defensive coordinators dread preparing for a wishbone team because they probably work against one only once per season, if that.

One significant rule change this season won't deter Hatfield and DeBerry but could raise the price for ball-handling miscues. In the past, a defender could not advance the ball if he recovered an errant or muffed lateral. His team took possession at the spot of the recovery. Now the defense is allowed to pick up the loose ball and go. This is more in line with the NFL rule and, for that matter, the high school rule. It's a matter of consistency. Naturally, this will not please coaches who operate the wishbone, veer or any other option scheme that requires hairtrigger decisions and precisely timed pitchouts.

## AGENTS ALWAYS LURKING

Curtis Enis, All-American running back at Penn State, became the most visible 1997 reminder that no program is immune to the damage unscrupulous agents can do.

Enis' sterling career ended under a cloud because a Houston-based agent reportedly spent \$400 on clothing for him. Enis became, by all accounts, the first player in Joe Paterno's 48 seasons as head coach or assistant at State College to come under NCAA scrutiny.

As soon as Paterno verified that Enis had accepted gifts—Enis admitted it to him—Paterno ruled him ineligible for the Nittany Lions' Citrus Bowl game against Florida. Enis



CURTIS ENIS-PENN ST.

## NCAA I-A Coaching Changes

SCHOOL	IN	OUT
Arkansas	Houston Nutt	Danny Ford
Boise State	Dirk Koetter*	Houston Nutt
Central Florida	Mike Kruczek*	Gene McDowell
Kent	Dean Pees	Jim Corrigan
Louisville	John L. Smith	Ron Cooper
Nebraska	Frank Solich	Tom Osborne
New Mexico	Rocky Long	Dennis Franchione
North Carolina	Carl Torbush	Mack Brown
North Texas	Darrell Dickey	Matt Simon
Temple	Bobby Wallace	Ron Dickerson
Texas	Mack Brown	John Mackovic
Texas Christian	Dennis Franchione	Pat Sullivan
USC	Paul Hackett	John Robinson
Utah State	Dave Arslanian	John L. Smith

\*Interim Coach



RICKY WILLIAMS-TEXAS

(CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT) ALLEN KEE (BRSP), BOB ROSATO, BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN



# Notes

may have entered the '98 NFL Draft a year early anyway, but the episode left no recourse.

Enis is a great kid. But he weakened when tempted by a 10-percenter who saw him as an ATM machine with no debit.

If it can happen at Penn State to Joe Paterno's program, it can happen anywhere to any coach. As Ohio State coach John Cooper said disgustedly on the subject of agents, "You've got your head in the sand if you think they're not around."

Ohio State linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer, a true junior, said he already had rebuffed agent overtures. Any who attempt to court him, he warned convincingly, are "out of the picture" when he does take his career to the next level.

## FIRST LADY OF COACHING

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, speaking from home on one of the Sunday telephone conference calls that follow road games, let his pride show through in a conversational detour.

"By the way," he said, "Tommy and Terry both won last night. Ann's here if anybody wants to talk to her."

Bowden's quip provoked the predictable laughter. But his wife is indeed the First Lady of college coaching.

Her husband's Seminole teams have enjoyed an unprecedented run of 11 consecutive seasons with at least 10 victories and

## Baby Boomers

(These underclassmen are poised for a big year in 1998)

**QB Bobby Newcombe, Nebraska**

**QB Ryan Kealy, Arizona State**

**QB Ortege Jenkins, Arizona**

**RB Travis Minor, Florida St.**

**RB Jamal Lewis, Tennessee**

**RB Anthony Thomas, Michigan**

**RB Toney Converse, Tulane**

**RB Correll Buckhalter, Nebraska**

**WR Reggie Wayne, Miami (Fla.)**

**WR Ken-Yon Rambo, Ohio St.**

**WR Ja'Warren Hooker, Washington**

**WR Abram Booty, LSU**

**DB Tay Cody, Florida St.**

**DB Lamont Thompson, Washington St.**

**DB DeWayne Patmon, Michigan**

**DB William Peterson, Michigan**

**DB Antuan Simmons, USC**

**DL Kyle Vanden Bosch, Nebraska**

**DL David Warren, Florida St.**

**DL Andy Wisne, Notre Dame**

**LB Grant Irons, Notre Dame**

**LB LaVar Arrington, Penn State**

**LB Dan Morgan, Miami (Fla.)**

**LB Donny Green, Virginia**

## THE SON ALSO RISES

Bob Griese, NFL Hall of Famer, ABC-TV college football analyst and father of the University of Michigan's starting quarterback, thought he had prepared himself for every possible scenario.

He thought wrong. The sidekick to legendary ABC announcer Keith Jackson left one out.

Bob Griese hadn't prepared himself to watch Brian Griese quarterback the Wolverines to a national championship and receive Rose Bowl MVP accolades. That's when the objectivity of the broadcast professional gave way to the emotions and pride of a father.

"I still get choked up when I think about the moment when Keith said to me on the air, 'Do you know who the MVP is?' That's when it all sort of got to me. I said something like, 'Keith, you're about to lose me here.'"

Griese turned and embraced his wife Shay in the ABC booth. *Miami Herald* sports columnist Edwin Pope wrote, "My wife used up three boxes of Kleenex on the last minute in Pasadena."

When Brian, who had starred at Miami Columbus High, decided he would attend Michigan, "I remember him saying, 'Hey, Pops, what are you going to do when I'm playing for Michigan and you and Keith are up there doing the game?'" Bob Griese said. "I hadn't even considered that. And I didn't take it seriously then. I just told Brian, 'I'll be there. Will you?'"

Initially, ABC had avoided even the appearance of a conflict of interest by assigning 1995 Michigan games to a telecast team other than Jackson-Griese. But Jackson has been ABC's play-by-play voice for more Michigan games than any other school so the policy changed in 1996, possibly in part because Brian Griese's primary role until then had been to hold for placekicks.

Bob Griese didn't actually disown his son for those Saturday afternoons when he had a Michigan game in 1996. But he referred to him as "Griese," or "the quarterback". And when Brian came off the bench in the regular-season finale to engineer an upset of unbeaten Ohio State with a long touchdown pass, Bob Griese acknowledged that "Michigan needed a big play" ... and credited receiver Tai Streets for delivering it.

But ABC Sports president Steve Bornstein and executive

director Steve Anderson reviewed the father-son angle before the 1997 season and they told Griese to lighten up. "They said, 'Hey, everybody has been shying away from this. Let's make a positive out of it. Have some fun with it.'"

Bob Griese knew this could get a bit sticky. He knew his words, his observations, even his voice inflection, would be subjected to scrutiny. If he were going to make reference to "Brian," he'd better call the other quarterback by his first name as well. He underemphasized Brian's big plays and probably tended to overemphasize the other quarterback's.

"I warned Brian, 'You're probably not going to get a fair shake when I'm in the booth,'" Bob Griese said.

Then the ABC analyst, whose greatest attribute as the Dolphins quarterback in back-to-back Super Bowl victories was his study and preparation, tried to conjure up every possible test of his objectivity.

"I was prepared for Brian not to play well, to have a bad game," Griese said. He was prepared to dispassionately point out bad decisions or to dissect why one of Brian's passes was intercepted.

"I was prepared for him to get hurt. That's an emotional thing. I'm in the booth and he blows out a knee and ends his career ... how do you react?"

Griese was prepared as well for Michigan to lose—the Wolverines had endured three consecutive four-loss seasons—when all his son dreamed about was taking his team to the Rose Bowl. But Michigan never lost. And Brian became a Rose Bowl hero when he delivered Michigan's first national championship in half a century.

Bob Griese wasn't prepared for that. He wasn't prepared for the storybook ending.



BRIAN GRIESE



no worse than a No. 4 post-bowl ranking by *The AP*. Son Terry has a 46-12 record and a new five-year contract at Auburn. Son Tommy inherited a 2-9 Tulane team and a program that had not celebrated a winning season since 1981 and debuted with a remarkable 7-4 season.

Ann Bowden's attention fragments on a Saturday. It's not uncommon for her to be watching an FSU game from the coaches' wives box with a television tuned to Auburn's game.

"It's much more traumatic watching Terry's and Tommy's games," she said, "because when I watch our games, I just expect us to win." Usually, anyway. "I'm much more uptight when we play a team like Florida where we're very equal."

The Bowdens' youngest son, Jeff, coaches FSU's wide receivers. If Bobby stays at it awhile longer—and at 68, he shows no signs of gearing back—Ann's head-coaching radar could widen to include a husband and three sons.

## DAUNTE'S INFERNO

Those who ridiculed Nebraska for playing Central Florida last September obviously did not know about quarterback Daunte Culpepper. This is a kid with a missile launcher of a right arm, a physique worthy of a tight end and mobility that reminds some of Randall Cunningham. So why is he at Central Florida and not Florida State or Florida? His academic standing in high school scared off the larger schools. UCF continued to recruit him, and when Culpepper did qualify, he rewarded the Knights (see feature, p.28).

NFL scouts who may have known little about him before got an eye-opener when Culpepper completed 24 of 35 passes for 318 yards and a TD and ran for 34 more yards in a 38-24 loss to the Huskers. Though circumstances certainly were different, this was the same defense that would hold Peyton Manning to 134 passing yards in the Orange Bowl. UCLA's Cade McNown gets this magazine's preseason first-team All-American nod, but only by a hair over second-teamer Culpepper.

## EXTRA POINTS

Folks aware of the physical toll on running backs say you can't have too many. But **Louisiana State** just might. How is coach Gerry DiNardo going to keep Kevin Faulk, Cecil "The Diesel" Collins and Rondell Mealey occupied? All are superior. Great problem to have. ... Bill Snyder has worked miracles at **Kansas State** and poses a serious threat to a reloading **Nebraska** for the Big 12 championship. The Wildcats and Cornhuskers play at Manhattan, Kan., Nov. 14. But isn't it time for K-State to test its muscle rather than fattening up every year on those non-conference appetizers? ... **Florida State's** defense plays no favorites. Dan Kendra, heir-apparent to Thad Busby at quarterback, has been sidelined by a knee injury requiring reconstructive surgery. He was injured late in the spring game and may not play this year. **Florida's** Steve Spurrier criticized Bobby Bowden and his defensive coordinator, Mickey Andrews, for the way Seminole defenders ran roughshod over Danny

Wuerffel in the 1996 regular-season finale. Obviously, that did nothing to intimidate the Seminoles, who have had a run of All-American pass-rushing ends in Peter Boulware, Reinard Wilson and Andre Wadsworth over the past two years. In 1997, seven rival quarterbacks suffered injuries, mostly minor, that sidelined them for at least a series and occasionally the balance of a game. That will happen when you're averaging about six sacks a game. ... Twenty-four Division I-A schools changed head coaches between the 1996 and 1997 seasons. Quick fixes are few. Of those 24

teams, only six posted winning records, **Pittsburgh** broke even at 6-6 under Walt Harris, and 17 ended up below .500. But change can be fruitful, even if improvement is rarely dramatic. Thirteen of the 24 new head coaches in '97 improved on '96 records at their schools, even though nine showed only a one-victory increase.

## Bob Griese's Top 40

- 1. OHIO STATE** Buckeyes return 19, host Penn St. and Michigan. W. Va. road game is huge
- 2. FLORIDA STATE** The cream of the ACC hosts biggie with Florida to end season
- 3. NEBRASKA** Can Frank Solich keep the Cornhuskers going? We think so
- 4. FLORIDA** Gators defense will be terrific, offense will get the job done
- 5. KANSAS STATE** Should be 9-0 heading into Nov. 14 home game vs. Nebraska
- 6. MICHIGAN** New faces on offense, 9 returning starters on defense
- 7. ARIZONA STATE** Inexperienced defense could spell trouble; watch RB J.R. Redmond
- 8. LSU** Road schedule is tough (at Auburn, Florida, Ole Miss, Notre Dame)
- 9. PENN STATE** The Lions are rebuilding at the skill positions, but hey, it's Penn St.
- 10. TENNESSEE** Circle Sept. 19: Vols host Florida. QB Tee Martin is the one to watch
- 11. UCLA** QB Cade McNown leads one of nation's best offenses
- 12. WEST VIRGINIA** Fate in own hands with Ohio St., Miami and Syracuse at home
- 13. COLORADO ST.** The WAC's best can send a message in opener vs. Michigan St.
- 14. WISCONSIN** Badgers are deep; should be 9-0 before facing Michigan and Penn St.
- 15. GEORGIA TECH** Experienced Jackets (16 ret. starters) must win at UNC (Sept. 26)
- 16. SYRACUSE** Can Orange overcome first two games (vs. Tenn., at Michigan)?
- 17. GEORGIA** DB Champ Bailey is one of nation's most dynamic talents
- 18. WASHINGTON** QB Brock Huard needs rebuilt O-line to gel in a hurry
- 19. N. CAROLINA** Still a contender in ACC despite huge exodus (incl. Mack Brown)
- 20. TEXAS** As RB Ricky Williams goes, so go Mack Brown's Longhorns
- 21. PURDUE** Boilermakers build on last year's 9-3 mark with tough defense
- 22. MICHIGAN ST.** Road games at Michigan, Ohio St. and Penn St. spell trouble
- 23. VIRGINIA** Nine returning starters on defense gives Cavs a quality bowl shot
- 24. NOTRE DAME** Return of option with QB Jarious Jackson gets Irish back in Top 25
- 25. TEXAS A&M** Aggies hope 13-game schedule proves lucky
- 26. AUBURN** Terry Bowden always has Auburn in thick of things
- 27. STANFORD** QB Chad Hutchinson has NFL written all over him (or MLB...)
- 28. BYU** Perennial WAC favorites could surprise
- 29. VIRGINIA TECH** Solid defense must keep things close for inexperienced '0'
- 30. MIAMI (FLA.)** Capable of pulling off sizable Big East upsets to move up
- 31. ARIZONA** Soph. QB Ortege Jenkins fuels Cats' hopes in wide-open Pac-10
- 32. MISSOURI** Electrifying QB Corby Jones keeps Mizzou on the upswing
- 33. OKLAHOMA ST.** Cowboys hoping to build on last year's Top 25 finish
- 34. COLORADO** Just 11 starters return for coach Rick Neuheisel
- 35. TULANE** Tommy Bowden's Green Wave can put up points in hurry
- 36. OLE MISS** Get Auburn, LSU, South Carolina and Miss. St. at home
- 37. USC** Trojans looking for DB Daylon McCutcheon to fire up defense
- 38. SOUTHERN MISS** Yes folks, this program is for real. Oct. 3 game at Tulane is huge
- 39. ARKANSAS** Razorbacks return 20 starters and add new coach Houston Nutt
- 40. TOLEDO** The MAC's best backfield powers Rockets past Marshall



# Bob Griese's Notes

## AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

### HEISMAN TROPHY

(Outstanding College Football Player)

- 1. Cade McNown, QB, UCLA:** If he wins his Sept. 12 showdown with Ricky Williams and leads this team to the Rose Bowl, the award is all but his.
- 2. Ricky Williams, RB, Texas:** His numbers can't get much better than last year's, but Texas' record better or his candidacy will sink.
- 3. Daunte Culpepper, QB, UCF:** With a low-profile schedule, he must come up big Sept. 19 at Purdue and Nov. 7 at Auburn.
- 4. Andy Katzenmoyer, LB, Ohio State:** Plays on a national championship contender and may be the game's best pro prospect. But is the Heisman ready for a linebacker?
- 5. Peter Warrick, WR, Florida State:** This explosive wideout can't let FSU's unsettled passing game erase his numbers early.
- 6. Kevin Faulk, RB, LSU:** Might fight for carries but is capable of leading LSU to the SEC championship.
- 7. Ron Dayne, RB, Wisconsin:** Numbers will be huge again, and he could engineer a 10-win season for Wisconsin.

- 8. Dre' Bly, CB, North Carolina:** Everyone is looking for the next Woodson, and Bly makes magic happen on his offensive snaps.
- 9. Donovan McNabb, QB, Syracuse:** Syracuse's slow starts always bogs down his candidacy. Guess what? The 'Cuse opens with Tennessee and Michigan in '98.

- 10. Amos Zereoue, RB, West Virginia:**

Won't be a hidden gem for much longer.



### JIM THORPE AWARD

(Outstanding Defensive Back)

1. Dre' Bly, North Carolina
2. Antoine Winfield, Ohio State
3. Anthony Poindexter, Virginia

### FRED BILETNIKOFF

(Outstanding Wide Receiver)

1. Peter Warrick, Florida State
2. David Boston, Ohio State
3. D'Wayne Bates, Northwestern

### BUTKUS

(Outstanding Linebacker)

1. Andy Katzenmoyer, Ohio State
2. Jevon Kearse, Florida
3. Brandon Short, Penn State

### DAVEY O'BRIEN

(Outstanding Quarterback)

1. Cade McNown, UCLA
2. Daunte Culpepper, Central Fla.
3. Brock Huard, Washington

### OUTLAND

(Outstanding Interior Lineman)

1. Aaron Gibson, Wisconsin
2. Jon Jansen, Michigan
3. Grey Ruegamer, Arizona State

### LOMBARDI

(Outstanding Lineman)

1. Jared DeVries, Iowa
2. Ed Chester, Florida
3. Gary Holmes, Washington State

### BEDNARIK

(Defensive Player of the Year)

1. Andy Katzenmoyer, Ohio State
2. Dre' Bly, North Carolina
3. Antoine Winfield, Ohio State

## Bob Griese's 1998 All-America Teams

### FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

POS	PLAYER	YR	HT/WT	SCHOOL
QB	Cade McNown	Sr.	6-1/215	UCLA
RB	Ricky Williams	Sr.	6-0/225	Texas
RB	Amos Zereoue	Jr.	5-10/200	West Virginia
RB	Rob Konrad	Sr.	6-3/255	Syracuse
WR	Peter Warrick	Jr.	6-0/190	Florida State
WR	David Boston	Jr.	6-3/206	Ohio State
WR	D'Wayne Bates	Sr.	6-2/210	Northwestern
TE	Jerame Tuman	Sr.	6-5/243	Michigan
OL	Aaron Gibson	Sr.	6-8/390	Wisconsin
OL	Grey Ruegamer	Sr.	6-5/296	Arizona State
OL	Ryan Young	Sr.	6-6/327	Kansas State
OL	Jon Jansen	Sr.	6-7/298	Michigan
OL	Matt Stinchcomb	Sr.	6-6/285	Georgia
AP	Quinton Spotwood	Jr.	6-0/175	Syracuse
K	Kris Brown	Sr.	5-10/205	Nebraska

### FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

POS	PLAYER	YR	HT/WT	SCHOOL
DL	Ed Chester	Sr.	6-4/284	Florida
DL	Jared DeVries	Sr.	6-4/270	Iowa
DL	Gary Holmes	Sr.	6-8/312	Washington State
DL	Tony Bryant	Sr.	6-4/270	Florida State
LB	Andy Katzenmoyer	Jr.	6-4/254	Ohio State
LB	Jevon Kearse	Jr.	6-5/250	Florida
LB	Brandon Short	Jr.	6-3/253	Penn State
LB	Hannibal Navies	Jr.	6-3/245	Colorado
CB	Dre' Bly	Jr.	5-10/193	North Carolina
CB	Antoine Winfield	Sr.	5-9/189	Ohio State
CB	Anthony Poindexter	Sr.	6-1/205	Virginia
CB	Daylon McCutcheon	Sr.	5-11/190	USC
P	Rodney Williams	Sr.	6-1/185	Georgia Tech

### SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

POS	PLAYER	YR	HT/WT	SCHOOL
QB	Daunte Culpepper	Sr.	6-5/240	Central Florida
RB	Kevin Faulk	Sr.	5-10/196	LSU
RB	Ron Dayne	Jr.	5-10/263	Wisconsin
RB	J.R. Redmond	Jr.	6-0/192	Arizona State
WR	L.C. Stevens	Sr.	6-5/210	North Carolina
WR	Troy Walters	Sr.	5-8/176	Stanford
WR	Peerless Price	Sr.	6-0/183	Tennessee
TE	Rufus French	Jr.	6-4/254	Ole Miss
OL	Mike Rosenthal	Sr.	6-7/320	Notre Dame
OL	Jamar Nesbit	Sr.	6-4/336	South Carolina
OL	Doug Brzezinski	Sr.	6-4/309	Boston College
OL	Zach Piller	Jr.	6-5/326	Florida
OL	Shawn Clark	Sr.	6-5/288	Appalachian State
AP	R. Jay Soward	Jr.	5-11/180	USC
K	Chris Sailer	Sr.	5-10/200	UCLA

### SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

POS	PLAYER	YR	HT/WT	SCHOOL
DL	Larry Smith	Jr.	6-5/288	Florida State
DL	Chris Hood	Sr.	6-3/280	Alabama
DL	Robert Daniels	Sr.	6-6/254	Northwestern State
DL	Montae Reagar	Sr.	6-3/260	Texas Tech
LB	Gary Stills	Sr.	6-2/244	West Virginia
LB	Johnny Rutledge	Sr.	6-2/256	Florida
LB	Eric Barton	Sr.	6-3/247	Maryland
LB	Keith Newman	Sr.	6-3/257	North Carolina
CB	Fernando Bryant	Sr.	6-0/180	Alabama
CB	Marcus Ray	Sr.	6-0/212	Michigan
CB	Damon Moore	Sr.	5-11/200	Ohio State
CB	Chris McAlister	Sr.	6-2/194	Arizona
P	Brent Bartholomew	Sr.	6-2/205	Ohio State

### THIRD TEAM OFFENSE

POS	PLAYER	YR	HT/WT	SCHOOL
QB	Brock Huard	Jr.	6-5/225	Washington
RB	De'Mond Parker	Jr.	5-10/190	Oklahoma
RB	Sedrick Irvin	Jr.	6-0/217	Michigan State
RB	Jamal Lewis	So.	6-1/234	Tennessee
WR	Jeremy McDaniel	Sr.	6-0/194	Arizona
WR	Lenzie Jackson	Sr.	6-0/193	Arizona State
WR	Torry Holt	Sr.	6-2/188	North Carolina State
WR	Dee Miller	Sr.	6-1/192	Ohio State
TE	John Lumpkin	Sr.	6-8/276	Ohio State
OL	Anthony Cesario	Sr.	6-6/308	Colorado State
OL	John Tait	Jr.	6-7/298	Brigham Young
OL	Chris Samuels	Jr.	6-6/296	Alabama
OL	John Welbourn	Sr.	6-5/290	California
OL	Todd McClure	Sr.	6-2/280	LSU
AP	Ben Kelly	So.	5-10/175	Colorado
K	Martin Gramatica	Sr.	5-9/172	Kansas State

### THIRD TEAM DEFENSE

POS	PLAYER	YR	HT/WT	SCHOOL
DL	Mike Rucker	Sr.	6-6/250	Nebraska
DL	Josh Williams	Jr.	6-3/276	Michigan
DL	Rosevelt Colven	Sr.	6-3/246	Purdue
DL	Ebenezer Ekuban	Sr.	6-4/278	North Carolina
LB	Jeff Kelly	Sr.	6-0/246	Kansas State
LB	Chris Claiborne	Jr.	6-3/253	USC
LB	Kory Minor	Sr.	6-2/248	Notre Dame
LB	Roderick Coleman	Sr.	6-3/260	East Carolina
CB	Champ Bailey	Jr.	6-1/184	Georgia
CB	Dexter Jackson	Sr.	6-1/192	Florida State
CB	Larry Atkins	Sr.	6-4/218	UCLA
CB	Mitchell Freedman	Sr.	6-0/192	Arizona State
P	Hunter Smith	Sr.	6-2/211	Notre Dame



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# YEAR IN



Hail to the 'Huskers, who have made a habit out of this national title thing. Three titles in four years, the latest perhaps the most amazing. Coming on the heels of coach Tom Osborne's decision to retire and a miraculous win over Missouri, Nebraska whipped Tennessee in the Orange Bowl to sway the coaches' vote in their favor.



Peyton Manning's season was so impressive that not even a two-loss season or Ryan Leaf could deny him the honor of being the No. 1 pick in the NFL Draft. Randy Moss' season was so impressive that not even the obscurity of playing for a first-year D-I school could keep him out of the spotlight. But the most impressive season belonged to Charles Woodson, whose offensive and defensive heroics earned him the Heisman Trophy.

CLOCKWISE: MICHAEL C. HEBER/SPURLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY; SCOTT HALLERAN/ALL SPORT ILLUSTRATION; DANIEL ALLSPORT; BOB ROSATO/DOUG PENNINGER/ALL SPORT; ALLEN KEE/CRISP; JAY CRIMFIELD; ANDY LYONS/ALL SPORT; MAIN: BRIAN SPURLOCK



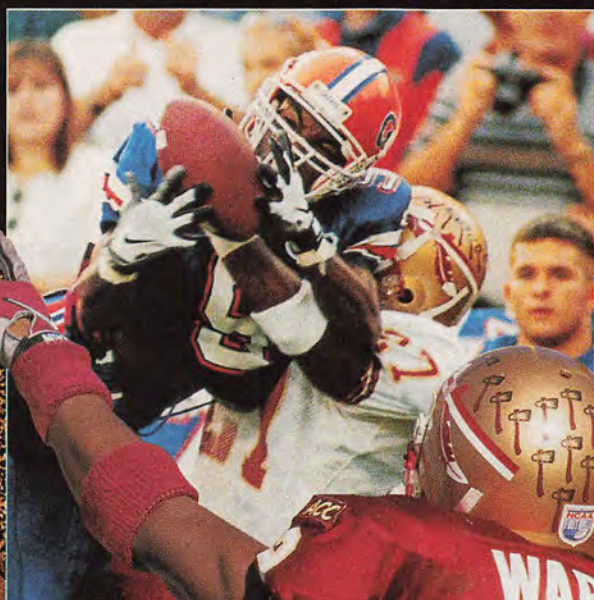
# REVIEW

# '97

**"THE OLYMPICS GIVE YOU A CERTAIN FEEL THAT YOU DON'T GET AT ANY OTHER EVENT AND I THINK COLLEGE FOOTBALL DOES THE SAME."**

**[ABC BROADCASTER KEITH JACKSON]**

National championships? Since when does Michigan do national championships? Rose Bowls, occasionally. Ohio State, annually. But national championships? Those honors are exclusively reserved for the Florida States and the Miamis and the Penn States of the college football world ... right? Well, so it appeared for 50-some-odd years anyway, but then something funny happened on the way to Michigan Stadium. Their "tough" non-conference schedule ... conquered. Demons in the form of Northwestern and Wisconsin ... exorcised. Giants wearing Nittany Lions and Buckeyes uniforms ... toppled. And the toughest enemy of them all, the enemy that always seemed to get in the way of their most brilliant moments, the enemy called itself ... vanquished. No let-ups, no let-downs, not even in the biggest game of them all, against Washington State in the Rose Bowl. In all, an 12-0 record, a Rose Bowl title and a share of the national championship. Hail to the victors.



North Carolina improved by leaps and bounds, but still couldn't usurp the mighty Florida St. empire. Florida could, however, handing the Seminoles their first loss of '97 in the annual clash of Sunshine State titans.



# Whoa, Nellie, Don't Go!



Bob Griese (left) and Keith Jackson are an institution on college football Saturdays, although perhaps for not much longer.

**Bob Griese chats with broadcast partner and friend**  
**Keith Jackson**, who is considering calling it  
quits after 31 years of covering college football for ABC



**F**or the past 11 years on ABC TV, I've had the honor of working alongside one of college football's living legends (as much as he hates to admit it), Keith Jackson. Considering that this could very well be his final year in the broadcast booth after 31 years as the lead announcer for ABC Sports, we felt that an interview with the man known for college football and his homespun charm would be fitting. Just a bit of background on Keith before we get started. He grew up on a working farm during the Great Depression in a small town some 50 miles south of Atlanta, Ga. In high school Keith played some sports—basketball, football, baseball—and

constantly dreamed of joining the Marine Corps, just as two uncles had done. At age 16, he joined the Corps (had to lie his way in) and then attended Washington State, after which he planned on returning to the military. But after getting involved in sports broadcasting, Keith's life took a different turn. I still contend that the best thing Keith got out of his Wazzoo days was his wife of 46 years, Turi Ann. They now live in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

**BG:** Where did Whoa Nellie come from?

**KJ:** Well it's not really mine. I don't even remember the first time I used it and I haven't used it many times. I know you've kind of poked me into saying it a few times. Actually the people around here in Los Angeles tell me that old Dick Lane used to use it all the time back in the late '50s when he was doing roller derby and wrestling for a handful of television stations.

**BG:** Nellie was not the mule that you rode to school on back then?

**KJ:** No she wasn't, I think her name was Pearl. I hitched old Pearl to the wagon many times. Whoa Nellie—I don't really know how it got to me.

**BG:** Let's talk about that Rose Bowl game last January. Here you had your alma mater, Washington State, finally getting back to Pasadena, facing off against Michigan, led by [my son] Brian, whom you've known for the last 11 years or so. Was that game any more difficult for you to do than any others? I know it was tough for me.

**KJ:** Well, it was difficult only in that we had to find a pace and a manner to it so it wouldn't be offensive to either side. I think it worked because I have heard no complaints about it. I think the way that we decided to do it, to make it human, to make it real, to make it warm and friendly, really worked. I'll tell you one thing, I know two guys who are damn happy Brian doesn't have any more eligibility.

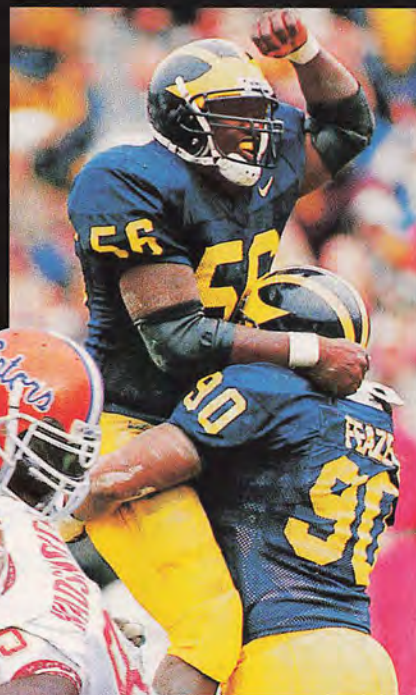
**BG:** You got that right. Any game that has

filled you with a lot of anticipation or energy or any game that stands out more than any others of all the ones that you've done?

**KJ:** Well, I think there's two or three. I still haven't forgotten the 1967 USC-UCLA game at the Coliseum here in Los Angeles when the national championship, the conference championship, the Rose Bowl and the Heisman Trophy were all on the line. USC won the ball game 21-20, but UCLA's quarterback, Gary Beban, had won the Heisman Trophy and the Trojans went on to win a national championship. Of course, O.J. [Simpson] went on to win the Heisman the next year.

The 1979 Sugar Bowl game with Alabama beating Penn

**"I'M GONNA MISS THE HOUR BEFORE THE KICKOFF; THAT'S MY FAVORITE TIME. I'LL MISS THE GATHERING, THE AMBIANCE OF IT, THE BAND, THE SPECIAL FEELING..."**



Michigan and Florida State are two of the teams that Keith Jackson respects the most.



State, 14-7, was a great football game. The quality of those two games was really terrific.

**BG:** If you could pair up any two teams from the past, which would they be?

**KJ:** I believe the game that I would probably pay the most money to go see would be the 1972 USC team with Lynn Swann play the 1994 Penn State team. USC won the national championship that year, and I think they were the greatest college football team I've ever seen. I mean, that'd be a sight. The barn would be on fire and there would be some hooting and hollering. They'd open all the doors to the hen house. Those were two great football teams and that was another one of Joe's undefeated teams that didn't get the national [title] vote.

**BG:** Tell me your feelings about a college football playoff.

**KJ:** I think UCLA chancellor Chuck Young and his committee came up with what I thought was the perfect plan. You pick four teams after the bowl games are played and you won't make a mistake. One of those four teams is gonna be the best team in the country.

**BG:** Your accent and style are anything but traditional. Did you have to overcome that when you first started?

**KJ:** When I came out of college I did radio news and you really couldn't tell where I was from because I tend to speak as a Southerner but a lot of people think I come from Texas. As the years went on I looked for some way to express myself without having to worry about it or think about it. If you want to describe something that you want people to remember, then say it in such a way that they will remember it. And I liked 'Whoa Nellie' a lot, and I think that's how I came to what are now called homilies. They're not practiced, they're not written ... they just happen.

**BG:** When did you truly get your start in broadcasting?

**KJ:** I started my sophomore year in 1951 and did my first college football game in 1952, which was a Washington St.-Stanford game that Stanford won 14-13 and Bob Mathias was in the Stanford backfield.

**BG:** What about your philosophies toward broadcasting? Was there anyone you ad-

mired or listened to, whom you patterned yourself after?

**KJ:** I listened to a lot of guys, I still do. But I don't try to pattern, no. If you can't be yourself you ought to get out of the business. I think to define my style of broadcasting, well, I haven't changed anything, never will change anything. I simply amplify, clarify, punctuate, and don't intrude, because I believe perfectly that the playing field is a stage that belongs to the players and coaches and not some announcer. I

Lewiston Bronc games on Saturday and Sunday for walking around money. I also enjoyed NASCAR a lot.

**BG:** Any least-favorite sports that you've covered?

**KJ:** Oh; there were a lot of them. I got a little tired of Superstars, if you want to know

**Jackson points to last year's Rose Bowl game featuring Washington State's Ryan Leaf as one of his most challenging games ever.**



**"YOU PICK FOUR TEAMS AFTER THE BOWL GAMES ARE PLAYED AND YOU WON'T MAKE A MISTAKE. ONE OF THOSE FOUR TEAMS IS GONNA BE THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY."**

turn off guys who don't respect that. I just don't believe that this whole thing evolved to be a showcase for announcers. I still think people turn on the TV for the game.

**BG:** Amen brother. Over the years you've covered a lot of sports on TV—auto racing, college football, the Olympics, basketball, gymnastics. Looking back, what's your favorite sport, event or venue?

**KJ:** I always liked college football because I grew up with it. I used to root for Scrappy Ward and the Chattanooga Moccasins when I was a kid. I liked old Scrappy—he wore

black and white shoes and a straw hat.

I enjoyed baseball a lot. Baseball's a game of geometry to me. I had a ball doing baseball as a network announcer. As a matter of fact, when I was in college I did the Pacific Coast League games in Lewiston, Idaho; I used to drive from campus to do

the truth. Any of the trash sports, the made-for-TV sports, wore a little bit thin. But I did enough figure skating and gymnastics to last me for a long time.

**BG:** You've worked with quite a cast of characters: Howard Cosell, Reggie Jackson, Bill Russell, Don Meredith, Dick Vitale. Any most memorable moments?

**KJ:** There have been a lot of things. I did the first live broadcast from the Soviet Union to the United States in 1958 [a crew event] which was filled with anecdotal things that were at the time not so funny but in hindsight were funny. We went to Cuba in 1974 and I got pictures of Fidel Castro lighting my cigar at ringside. I used to keep [one of those pictures] in my office and a lady who used to come in and help clean up the house once in a while hated Castro, so she'd hide the picture. I'd find it and put it back, and then she'd come back in and hide it again. This went on for several years. I finally put my picture in the file so she wouldn't burn it.

**BG:** What is the most difficult thing about doing college football games?

**KJ:** My job has become a lot easier since you and I have been together. I think it should be pointed out that you are now the



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longest running analyst in college football history at ABC Sports. Nobody else ever went past nine years. And there were a lot of reasons for it. I think it speaks well for you. But the thing that frustrates me more than anything else is traffic. There's so much traffic going through the telecast that you can't really tell stories. There's no time. But I spend a lot of time trying to find themes and subjects and ways of filling in the cracks, dealing with the social factors, dealing with the things that tell a complete story over and beyond what the action tells us. I don't invest as much time in X's and O's as I used to.

**BG:** Looking back over your career Keith, what are you most proud of?

**KJ:** Longevity for one. I think if you haven't done a decent job you couldn't last this long. I think if you weren't honest, or people didn't respect you, you wouldn't last this long. So I think that speaks for itself. I think I can honestly, truthfully say, that I have never really tried to hurt anybody and I'm really unwilling to criticize an 18-, 19-year-old kid who's trying to do something. He may make mistakes, that's fine. I don't care if he makes mistakes as long as he's trying. The ones who don't try, now that's a different critter.

**BG:** What are some of your favorite college towns?

**KJ:** I've been to Ann Arbor so much I feel I should have bought a house there. I like Ann Arbor. It's a friendly place. Austin, Texas, is another place that's kind of fun to go to. Very friendly. Seattle's nice. The University of Washington is one of the few schools in a big city that has everything you could possibly want. I think Lincoln, Neb., is quite a remarkable place. I think Nebraska fans are even more remarkable. I remember the first time I saw the Nebraska crowd stand up and applaud a play by an opposing team player. I believe it was a Florida State night game, a prime time game. A Florida State kid made a heck of a play and they applauded. I think that's a very astute football faithful. I respect those people a lot.

**BG:** What are you going to miss most and least about doing the games?

**KJ:** I'm gonna miss the hour before the kickoff; that's my favorite time. I'll miss the

gathering, the ambiance of it, the band, the special feeling that we've talked about. The anticipation of the telecast, the possibility, just the simple possibility, that this might be the one time where you don't make a mistake. And I'll guaran-damn-tee ya if I ever get through three quarters without a mistake I'm gonna leave. I'm gonna miss the people at the various campuses.

But I'll tell you what I won't miss. I'm not gonna miss the race to the airport, the impersonal travel agent, those ticket agents who ordain your seat whether you like that seat or not. I'm not gonna miss the airline food, some of it has improved a little but it's still not like it was in the '50s, '60s or '70s. I'm not gonna miss the limo drivers who don't show up, or the cab drivers who won't speak English. I'm not gonna miss hotel reception people who check you in looking into their little square box and never look at you and only sometimes do they give you your messages. I'm not gonna miss rubber pillows that make your neck stiff. I'm not gonna miss hotel cable systems that don't have the Golf Channel. I'm not gonna miss having to put on a tie to record a damn Fri-

**"I SIMPLY AMPLIFY, CLARIFY, PUNCTUATE, AND DON'T INTRUDE, BECAUSE I BELIEVE PERFECTLY THAT THE PLAYING FIELD IS A STAGE THAT BELONGS TO THE PLAYERS AND COACHES AND NOT SOME ANNOUNCER. I TURN OFF GUYS WHO DON'T RESPECT THAT."**



**The 1967 USC-UCLA game featuring Trojans running back O.J. Simpson left an indelible impression on Jackson.**

day promo. And I'm certainly not gonna miss all the traffic that clutters the coverage of the ball game. Sometimes I get the feeling the ball game is just a carrier for all that other stuff.

But I tell you what I am gonna miss

when this whole thing is done. I'm gonna miss the game colleagues that I worked with, that little group of people that try so hard to make this whole package fit together. And I'll miss that real good feeling you have when you walk out of there feeling like you got the rhythm straight on the package. I think that's what I'll miss the most. And I'm gonna miss you, Bob.

**BG:** Describe your perfect football Saturday.

**KJ:** Well the first thing that you want to do is you want to make sure that you get a good night sleep, because you've already done the preparations for the game. And just once in a season to have your scrambled eggs, country ham with red eye gravy and grits for breakfast. And hot black coffee. My wife won't let me eat that anymore, but to have it delivered hot to your room, with a morning paper. Then beat the traffic to the stadium, get a good parking place to set up your getaway, have a decent sandwich at halftime for lunch, time to go to the restroom, have a two-point conversion to win with a half a minute to play and then an easy ride to the airport. And probably best of all, you

get to drive home after a game like I do once in a while here in Los Angeles, then sit down with a bottle of good wine and eat some chicken enchiladas. That's all I want out of a Saturday.

**BG:** What about the all-Keith Jackson team. Do you have any?

**KJ:** I started to do that.

**BG:** Favorites for different positions?

**KJ:** I took out my tablet and I sat here for a while and I started looking through books, and you know what I decided? I'm too lazy.

**KJ:** I've got one more funny story Greese, you're gonna love this. There's a guy that's been calling two months for an interview. I finally relented, agreed to do it, somewhere this spring, a piece for GQ magazine. Can you imagine that?

**BG:** I want you on the cover. What are you gonna wear? Tell 'em you're not gonna do it unless it's the cover. I think it's hilarious, Keith in GQ magazine. I love that.

**KJ:** I'm gonna wear my bib overalls.





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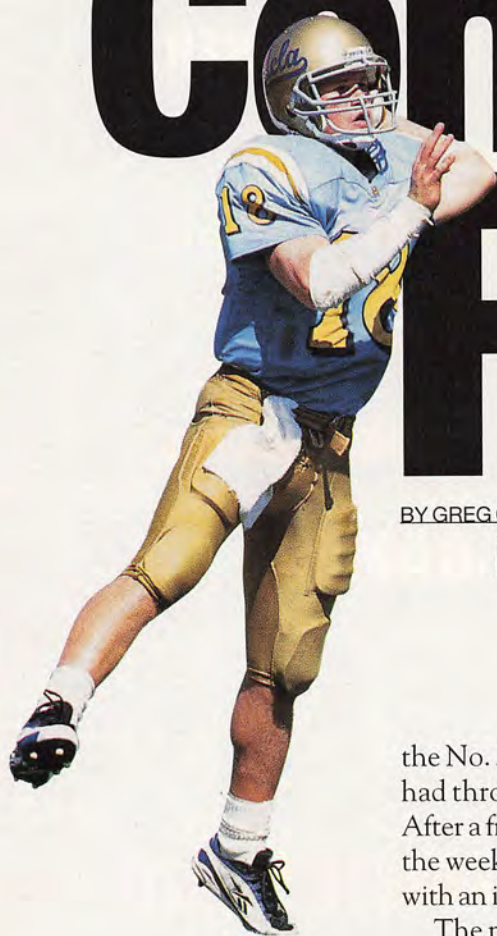


# Forget the Heisman.

**What Cade McNown really wants to win in 1998  
is the Rose Bowl**

# Coming Up Roses

BY GREG GUSS



**Cade McNown has blossomed into a top-flight quarterback, due much in part to the faith that UCLA coach Bob Toledo showed in him during McNown's difficult freshman and sophomore seasons.**

**T**wo games into UCLA's 1997 season, the unhappy Bruins fans went into a feeding frenzy and quarterback Cade McNown was their fodder. The Bruins had narrowly missed upsetting the No. 3 ranked Tennessee Volunteers and McNown had thrown for 400 yards, but it wasn't good enough. After a frustrating three-point loss to Washington State the week before, UCLA seemed destined for another mediocre season with an inconsistent quarterback at the helm.

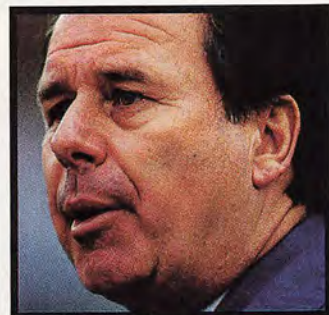
The phone lines were jammed with alumni offering their "expert" analysis as to why McNown, a starter since the third game of his freshman year, would never develop into anything more than an occasionally dynamic, mistake-prone quarterback. Even UCLA's own postgame show hosts seemed to agree.

"Careless." "Panicked." "Error-prone." "Poor footwork." And those were just the nice calls. Listening to the radio while driving away from the Rose Bowl following the Tennessee loss, McNown decided he couldn't take it any longer. From a cellular phone, he called into the Bruins postgame show.

"Hi, this is Cade McNown," he said. The call-screener laughed, thinking it was a crank call. He quizzed McNown for 10 minutes before he would let him on the air.

"I got on the air and answered some questions and was on there for a while," McNown said. "After I got off, we kept listening and everyone was calling in after that saying, 'He's a real class guy.' 'Did we mention he threw for 400 yards?' When I called in, it became personal and people were like, 'OK, he's not so bad a guy. He's driving home after the game, life goes on for him, too.'"

Through the Washington State opener and the first half of the Tennessee







game, McNown did seem outclassed (as did just about every other quarterback who faced Ryan Leaf and Peyton Manning last year). But something seemed to click with the UCLA offense during the second half of the Tennessee game and shortly thereafter with the Bruins faithful. Trailing 24-3 at halftime, McNown directed a frenetic second-half comeback in which he passed for 302 yards and a touchdown. He had the Bruins within 16 yards of a tie game when time expired, and UCLA lost 30-24.

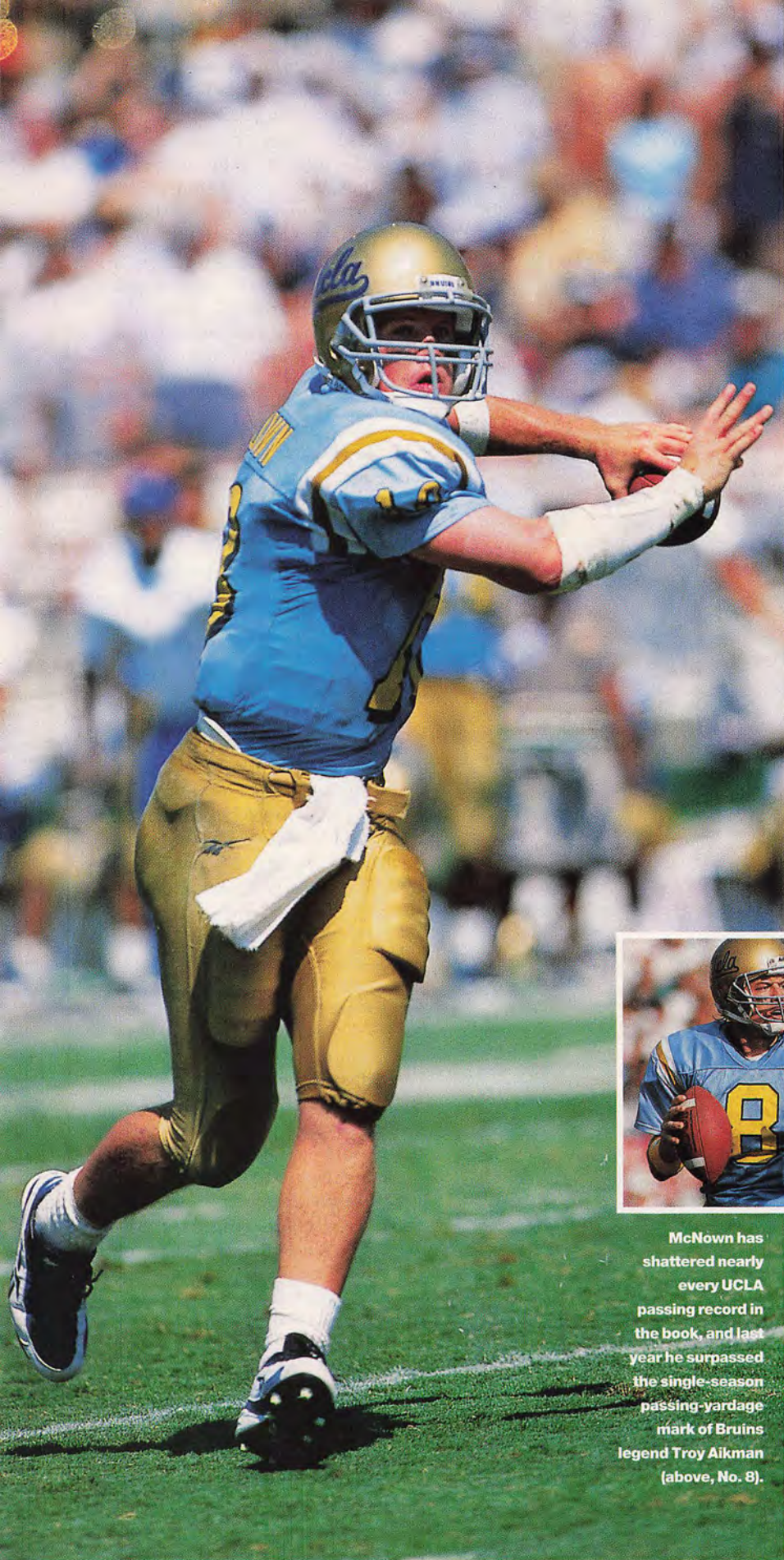
Other than McNown, few could have believed that the Bruins would rip off a 10-game winning streak to close out the season. Unranked after the second week, UCLA finished the 1997 season at No. 5 after a 29-23 victory over Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl. McNown finished the season as the No. 1-rated passer (168.6) in college football and with the 12th-highest rating in NCAA history. His 3,116 yards broke UCLA's single-season passing-yards record, obliterating Troy Aikman's mark along the way.

Over the past several years, the team that's won the Pac-10 has consistently had one player who lifted his mates on his shoulders and carried them to the Rose Bowl. Last year it was Leaf. In 1996, Jake Plummer led Arizona State to Pasadena. Before that, it was USC's Keyshawn Johnson and UCLA's J.J. Stokes. This year, McNown is not only a preseason All-American and Heisman Trophy favorite but the man expected to lead UCLA to the Rose Bowl.

Despite the recognition he has now earned, McNown's road to college football's promised land has been strewn with more than a few landmines. After taking over the starting job as a green freshman, his first two seasons in powder blue and gold contained many instances of two steps forward and one step back. For every touchdown there was an interception. For every broken-tackle first-down run there was an ill-advised pass. By the end of his sophomore season, McNown had thrown 19 touchdown passes and 24 interceptions.

"When he first came here, he had raw talent," UCLA coach Bob Toledo said. "He's learning an offense, learning about college football. When you start as a freshman, I think people pick at you a little bit more and that's what happened. He's played for so long now





McNown has shattered nearly every UCLA passing record in the book, and last year he surpassed the single-season passing-yardage mark of Bruins legend Troy Aikman (above, No. 8).

that people remember him as a freshman and they don't realize how much improvement he's made."

One factor that McNown said slowed his development at UCLA was the fact that he had to learn two different offensive systems during his first two years (he ran a Wing-T offense until his senior year at West Linn High in Oregon).

"That's another thing that people aren't going to be too quick to explain to anybody," McNown said. "I get here as a true freshman and I'm playing in a brand new offense. The next year, as a sophomore, I'm playing in a brand new offense.

**"WINNING TROPHIES AND PERSONAL THINGS HAVE NEVER REALLY BEEN A DREAM OF MINE. ...WINNING THE ROSE BOWL, WINNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP — THOSE ARE GOALS THAT I'VE DREAMED A LITTLE MORE OF."**

**[CADE McNOWN]**

Finally, this past year, I get to play in the same offense and I get to develop into it over the offseason and look at film that mattered. This being my third year in the offense, I should be making good reads again and even better ones."

McNown initially earned the starting job by making big plays, both passing and running the ball. But as he enters his senior year, McNown is a much more refined passer.

"There's no question he's got skills and he's refining them all the time," Toledo said. "He's getting better at doing the little things that make you a quarterback. He's always been a fierce, fierce competitor. Now though, he's like having a player-coach."

With McNown at the helm and seven starters returning on offense, UCLA could boast another point-scoring juggernaut in 1998. "I said last year to a lot of the media that I wanted to complete 60 percent of my





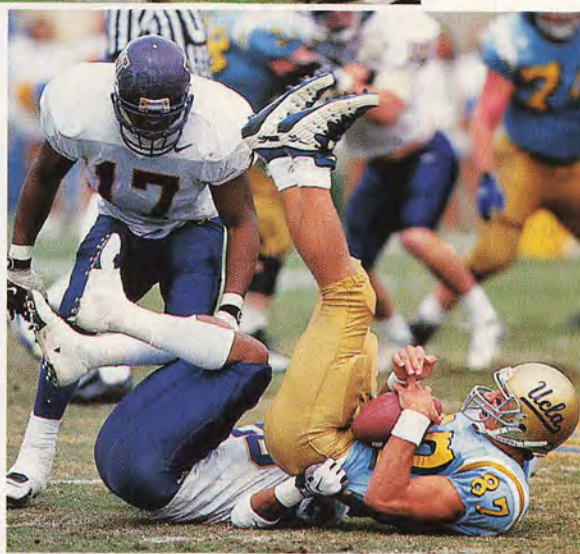
**A great athlete, Cade McNown is not afraid of straying from the pocket and heading downfield, as he demonstrated in two of UCLA's biggest victories last year: against Texas A&M (above) and Washington (right).**

passes," McNown said. "I said we had the ability to score 40 points a game, and they all laughed. Somebody wrote down—I saw an article—that I said 30 points a game, and they laughed. But no, I actually said 40 points a game, and they laughed. The year before we averaged 30 points a game and I said look, this offense is all coming back. We can literally do 40 a game."

Not exactly, Cade. UCLA averaged 39.9 points per game in 1997. Along the way, UCLA defeated opponents by an average of more than 22 points a contest. When McNown threw for five touchdowns in a 66-3 win at Texas, the 63-point margin marked the largest point total that a ranked team had lost by in the history of *The Associated Press* poll.

UCLA opens its 1998 season on Sept. 12 against Texas at the Rose Bowl. With Texas tailback Ricky Williams lining up against the Bruins, McNown's Heisman Trophy candidacy could get an early boost if he can duplicate his previous performance.

"If there is a better Heisman Trophy



candidate than Cade McNown," Toledo said, "I'd like to meet him. I can't imagine anyone being more valuable to his team than Cade is to us."

No UCLA quarterback has contended for the Heisman since Aikman finished third in the balloting in 1988. Quarterback Gary Beban was the only Bruin ever to win the Heisman when he outpointed O.J. Simpson in 1967. "If somebody mentioned the Heisman, I'd think it's possible [that I could win it], but I'd know that there would

have to be a lot of things to take place. Winning trophies and personal things have never really been a dream of mine."

Not that McNown would mind winning college football's greatest individual honor. "If the Heisman Trophy came to Westwood and I was the figurehead for that trophy, then that would be great because it'd have meant we won a ton of games. You can't win a personal award without everybody doing their job. I think what it stands for is special. Being the best college football player in the country for that year is an unbelievable honor. The tradition and everything that goes into the Heisman Trophy is unmatched."

McNown, however, has bigger priorities than individual awards. Ever since the day he signed his letter of intent to go to UCLA, he has dreamed of playing in Pasadena on New Year's Day. "Winning the Rose Bowl, winning the national championship—those are goals that I've dreamed a little more of," McNown said.

Early in his career, victories over arch-rival USC mollified unsatisfied alumni. Now 3-0 against the Trojans, McNown could be the first quarterback to win four games in the series. But he's been around too long to take any game for granted or to

look too far ahead. A film-room fanatic with a technical mind, McNown adjusts his goals after every whistle.

"I think the most important thing for a quarterback is to complete the pass. Every time you drop back you should complete the ball, whether that's for five or 50 yards," he said. "You don't know, because sometimes the defense will want to take away your short game and sometimes they want to take away your long game. You just have to adjust. ... I think I did

that going into the Stanford game last year. We'd been able to go deep so many times and they really wanted to play back and it took me a while to say these guys are not going to give me [the deep ball], and I started picking them apart underneath and things started going better. I think I learned something in that game. Don't be too concerned with what everybody else thinks should happen. Take what they give you."

And if they give you the Heisman Trophy, you take it. ○



***Frank Solich and Doug Williams  
will take different approaches to the same  
unenviable task—replacing a legend***

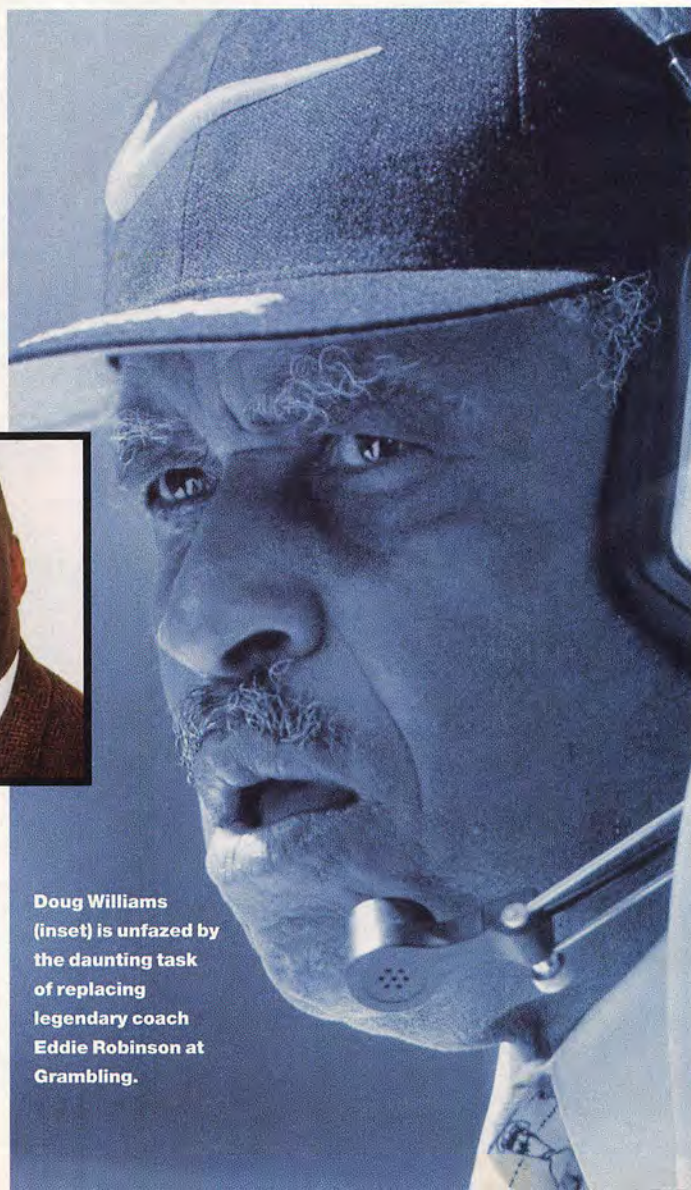
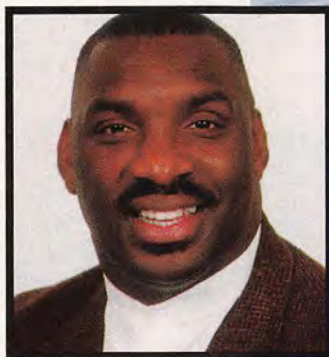
# Walking in the Shadows

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

**T**here aren't many more tragic coaching figures in college football history than Ray Perkins, the man unlucky enough to succeed the legendary Bear Bryant at Alabama. He may have won 66.7 percent of his games, including three postseason bowls, but Perkins didn't capture an SEC crown or contend for a national title. Next to the Bear, he was a mere cub. The poor guy didn't have a chance.

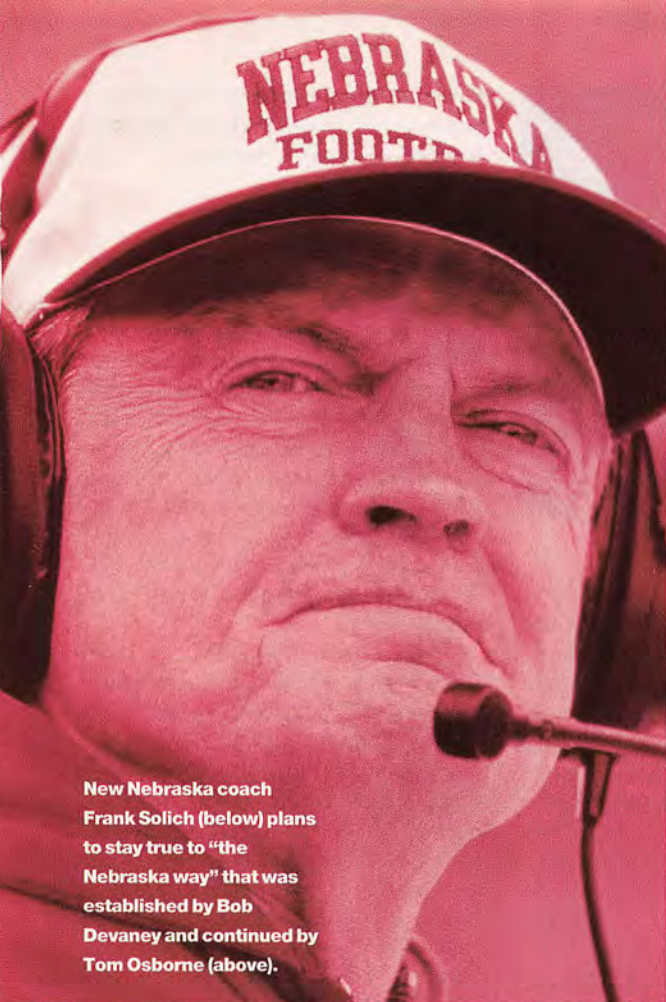
That's why many might question the sanity of Frank Solich and Doug Williams, men charged with following coaching icons at Nebraska and Grambling, respectively. All Eddie Robinson did was take a dinky Louisiana school with no national image and win 408 games in 57 years. For most fans, Grambling represented black college football, and Robinson was Grambling. During his 25 years in Nebraska, Tom Osborne won 255 games and three national championships. His teams were perennial top-five contenders and boasted an annual parade of All-Americans. His stoic demeanor helped define the Plains school's identity.

Robinson and Osborne have left the sidelines. The men who replace them do so under enormous shadows and face the possibility of joining Perkins in the hard-luck club. Williams takes over a Tiger team that hasn't had a winning season in three years, so he will have a honeymoon of sorts while he rebuilds. Solich, a long-time Osborne



**Doug Williams (inset) is unfazed by the daunting task of replacing legendary coach Eddie Robinson at Grambling.**





New Nebraska coach Frank Solich (below) plans to stay true to "the Nebraska way" that was established by Bob Devaney and continued by Tom Osborne (above).

## NEBRASKA'S FEUDAL-STYLE DESIRE TO AFFECT A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF POWER FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT IS RARE IN THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL RANKS.

assistant, has been part of the Nebraska football family on and off for 35 years. He is a part of the school's tradition.

They will approach their jobs differently. Williams wants to create a new Grambling identity while not forgetting its successful past. Solich wants to cling to the Nebraska legacy that has been a powerful force in the college football world since 1962. But each knows that following a legend is tricky work.

Just ask Perkins.

Life seems simpler in Nebraska. The pace is a bit slower. The people are a bit friendlier—provided you don't mess with their Cornhuskers. The basic things are a way of life. Take keeping a secret. There's really nothing to it. "You just don't tell anybody," Nebraska athletic director Bill Byrne said.

Although Byrne and University of Nebraska chancellor James Moeser knew late last summer that 1997 would be Tom Osborne's last season as head football coach, they didn't tell anybody. That's just the Nebraska way. Keep it simple.

There were plenty of surprised people when Osborne announced he would be leaving, but not many who were surprised



when Frank Solich was introduced as his successor, or when the entire coaching staff decided to stick around. If Nebraska has done anything during the last 36 years of its football history, it has developed a culture and tradition that represents the state itself, not to mention the ever-growing expectations of its fans. Of course the Cornhuskers would name Solich the new head coach. Didn't Bob Devaney anoint Osborne as his successor following the 1972 season?

Few knew who Osborne was when he took over, just like Solich, a former 160-pound fullback who played at Nebraska from 1963-65, wasn't the biggest name bandied about when replacements for

the three-time national title winner were being discussed among the media. But the people in Nebraska knew. It had to be one of their own. There's just no way an outsider could have understood the state and the program, much less rallied the troops to continue marching down the same scarlet-and-cream path.

Nebraska's feudal-style desire to affect a smooth transfer of power from one generation to the next is rare in the college football ranks, and few other schools have such an unbroken chain of command. At Penn State, Joe Paterno's reign has provided for three-plus decades of consistency and bland attire. LaVell Edwards is entering his 28th season at Brigham Young, while Bobby Bowden checks in with 22 years of service at Florida State. Michigan coach Lloyd Carr is a third-generation descendent of the Bo Schembechler regime. After that, college football is filled with coaches whose mere presence represents the mercurial nature of the sport. Athletic directors and school presidents who don't get desired results quickly enough move on in a new direction. Team's identities change more quickly than their rosters turn over. Not Nebraska.

"I think continuity is critical at Nebraska," Osborne said. "When I took over, people knew me and remembered that I came aboard here in 1962 with Bob. Frank was a player on Bob's early teams. It's important that there is a link back to '62."

"This is not a school where coaches have come and gone and assistants have done the same," said Solich, who served under Osborne for 19 seasons before taking the throne. "That's unique."

Just as Osborne's stoic demeanor was a departure from Devaney's gregarious personality, so too will Solich be different. He possesses a high-energy enthusiasm that will manifest itself in a more animated sideline style. (When Osborne was coaching a game, a herd of elephants could parade across the 50-yard line of Memorial Stadium, and all he would do was adjust his headset and ask whether the pachyderms had any available NCAA eligibility.) But Solich, who looks at least 10 years younger than his age (53), won't be tampering with any things in the grand scheme.

Part of that comes from common sense. The Cornhuskers have won 87 games during the 1990s. Someone would be crazy to mess with that. But more importantly, Solich won't do anything to disturb the program's overall mission,





**Williams returns to the school where he first made his mark—Grambling went 35-5 during his years as quarterback.**

lot of football games.”  
Sounds simple.

**D**oug Williams didn’t get to see too many Grambling games last year. The Tiger alum was a little busy directing the Morehouse College program. But when he finally did tune in, he didn’t like what he saw. It wasn’t his alma mater’s play that disturbed him all that much, although no fan of the school could have been happy with the last three seasons, all of which were sub-.500. Williams couldn’t handle the way Grambling looked.

“I was watching the Bayou Classic [Grambling’s annual season-ender with Southern] with my wife, and she said to me, ‘those uniforms are ugly,’” Williams said.

Indeed, the Tigers’ combination of black, red and yellow made them look like an Arena Football League team, not one of the nation’s proudest programs. Red had been a part of the Grambling black-and-gold uniform scheme for a long time—but it was introduced only as trim. During the 1990s, it had become a dominant player. Williams didn’t like that. And so it will change. It’s back to black-and-gold for the Tigers in 1998. “A real gold, not yellow,” Williams said.

The uniform change may seem cosmetic to some, but it represents Williams’ outlook on his new position. Although he understands how much Eddie Robinson meant to Grambling, he is aware that a major reconstruction is in order if the school wants to return to the days when it beat practically everybody on its schedule and stocked NFL rosters with talented players like himself.

The last few years haven’t resembled that even a little bit. Only 11 of Robinson’s remarkable 408 wins came from 1995-97. Discipline had lagged. Grambling was even placed on probation for some minor violations that might not have taken place had the previous staff not lingered a few too many seasons. The Tigers’ offensive set—the Wing-T—was antiquated. Attendance was down. And NFL scouts weren’t flocking to the campus. The old Grambling was gone, right down to the uniforms.

Williams is properly respectful of Robinson and his legacy, but he knows big changes must be made in order to make the program successful again. “I

## **“GRAMBLING WENT 11-21 THE LAST THREE YEARS, SO IT’S NOT LIKE I’M STEPPING INTO DEAN SMITH’S SHOES. WE’RE NOT TALKING ABOUT RELOADING HERE. WE’RE TALKING ABOUT REBUILDING.”**

**[DOUG WILLIAMS]**

which is to provide its legions of fans with a team that represents them, if not always geographically—since Nebraska has broadened its recruiting base in order to remain so successful—but certainly philosophically. The hugely successful walk-on program stays in place. So does the weight training assembly line that cranks out All-America linemen every season.

Solich understands that Nebraska football is the only real sport for the entire state. There are no pro teams. That’s a powerful responsibility. The Cornhuskers need to win. They need to win big.

They also need to make sure things get done correctly off the field. Throughout the whole 1996 Lawrence Phillips & Friends fiasco, all of Nebraska took a hit, not just the athletic department. When your sporting identity is tied completely to one team, any blemish stands out. Not everybody in America understands that. Frank Solich does.

“I came to Nebraska six years ago, and it took me a while to understand the culture of the football program,” said Byrne, who had been AD at Oregon and was born in Boston. “We do things differently

than some other people.”

Whereas another school might have launched a national search for its new head coach, Osborne had already groomed Solich for the job. He made him assistant head coach in 1991, not long after Solich considered joining long-time friend Barry Alvarez at Wisconsin as offensive coordinator. And though the title didn’t bring with it all that much more responsibility, given Osborne’s hands-on approach, Solich was clearly second-in-command. He ran the Nebraska football camp and coaches’ clinic. If Osborne was unable to be at a practice or press conference, Solich took over.

Then, throughout the 1997 season, as Byrne kept Osborne’s secret, the AD began to watch Solich more closely and engage him in conversations about coaching. It was an interesting dynamic, since neither man would admit what was going on, but both knew. “It was something of an unspoken communication,” Byrne said.

This season may mark the first season Solich prowls the sidelines as the man in charge, but it is the 37th year that Nebraska will be operating under an umbrella first opened by Devaney. Some things will change. Wrinkles will develop. New plays and schemes will emerge. But Nebraska’s football personality will not change. Its mission will not be altered. The wins will come. So will the fans. So will the players.

“I don’t think there’s any question that one of the reasons I got hired was that Tom and Bill feel I know what has helped Nebraska football win,” Solich said. “We’re not starting from scratch. I want to maintain what has been important to winning games. We will not change our philosophy in how we approach offense, defense and the kicking game. We will not change how we treat our players. We want to keep what has helped Nebraska win a



look at it from a realistic standpoint," Williams said. "Coach had a 57-year run. He was good for Grambling, and Grambling was good for him. My father used to say, 'Even the best of friends have to part sometimes.'"

Williams lays out his blueprint for the program's success as if he were barking out signals at the line of scrimmage. Williams is confident. He is definitive. If Grambling is to win again, it must change and move into the 1990s. To some, that kind of talk is blasphemy. And were Williams merely an outsider who arrived at the school's Louisiana campus preaching change, there might be some resentment. But he's one of the school's most revered alums, a reminder of what Grambling once was. When he sings a new song of Grambling, he has the power of past success providing harmony.

Williams threw for 8,411 yards and 93 touchdowns during his career (1974-77) and led Grambling to a 35-5 record. He was the first player from a predominantly black college ever chosen as a first-team All-America by *The Associated Press* and highlighted his professional career with four TD passes in Washington's Super Bowl XXII win over Denver.

Williams words have strength and truth, even if they aren't all that politically

correct. Robinson retired as an American icon, and the final tributes to him focused on the glorious past, not the mediocre present. Some might consider it a burden to step into his position. Williams isn't one of them.

"Grambling went 11-21 the last three years, so it's not like I'm stepping into Dean Smith's shoes," Williams said, using the former North Carolina basketball coach's late-career successes as a contrast to Robinson's problems. "We're not talking about reloading here. We're talking about rebuilding. I was here in the glory days. I knew what Grambling stood for. I knew how people thought of Grambling. I'm trying to get that back. People know it's not going to be easy."

Williams didn't waste any time showing holdovers from the Robinson era how different things would be. He began with a 5:30 a.m. conditioning program. And during spring drills, any of the lateness and carelessness that had prevailed during the last years of Robinson's tenure were not tolerated. It's a plot line played out at any number of programs throughout the country each year. A new coach comes in and imposes structure and discipline on a previously unsuccessful group. Some kids quit. Others just puke. In some ways, it's pretty stan-

dard stuff. Except one wouldn't expect it to be so zealously administered by a Robinson disciple.

"This wasn't at all about continuity," Williams said. "The players had to adjust to us. What happened the previous three years is true. It's history. I don't want people to expect me to walk on water. I'm for real. The past is right there, in black and white. We have to rebuild."

So, when Doug Williams leads his Tigers into Robinson Stadium on Sept. 5 against Alcorn State, they will be ready. They will be sharp. And they will be wearing black-and-gold uniforms.

Grambling football was great. Williams knows that. He was a part of it. And even though it was Eddie Robinson who created the legacy that the new coach will try to match, he was also responsible for creating the need to rebuild. Sometimes, tradition is the best thing for a program. In other instances, it can be a burden. "Most of the people associated with Grambling understand where we are," Williams said. "They know Rome wasn't built in a day."

Nothing good ever is. ○

**Nebraska is annually stocked with top-notch players, which should ease the team's transition to its new coach.**





A close-up photograph of a football player, Daunte Culpepper, wearing a gold helmet with a black face mask and a black jersey with the number 8. He is holding a Rawlings Pro 5 football with both hands. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

The Golden Knights' Daunte Culpepper could have been a first-round pick in the 1998 NFL Draft, but he decided to return to Central Florida for his senior year instead.

# Knight of Honor





## ***Daunte Culpepper is driven by forces more noble than fame and fortune***

BY PHILIP SINGERMAN

**M**ike Kruczek, former NFL quarterback and current interim head coach at the University of Central Florida, once watched a recruiting tape of quarterback Daunte Culpepper for all of three minutes and then shut off the machine. He had no need to see anymore. "I've played with great ones," Kruczek said. "Terry Bradshaw, Kenny Anderson, Kenny Stabler. Since I've gotten out of the league I've seen some great ones. Daunte Culpepper is as good if not better than all of them." Awfully hefty superlatives for a kid who plays on the fringes of the national spotlight, but if you're not a believer—if you can't believe in an obscure player at an obscure school that doesn't even belong to a Division I conference, that didn't even become a Division I school until 1996—witness just one play, just one snap. That's all it takes to believe in Culpepper, the Golden Knight who is primed to make a Randy Moss-like bid for the Heisman Trophy this year.

Philip Yancey, his coach at Vanguard High in Ocala, Fla., saw Culpepper throw a 70-yard strike to a high school teammate while running to his left. At the time, Culpepper was a sophomore. That same year, Culpepper threw a sideline-to-sideline bullet with such velocity it sliced open another receiver's hand. After that, the Vanguard receivers all wore gloves.

Joe Namath witnessed Culpepper's first game in a UCF uniform and called in to Pete Rose's radio show that night. "I just saw this kid on TV named Daunte Culpepper," Namath said. "He's from the University of Central Florida, and he's the best passer I've seen in I can't remember how long, except for maybe Dan Marino. I grabbed my wife and said, 'Watch this kid's footwork. Look at him throw.' Florida and Miami didn't get him. I'm going to call [UCF athletic director] Steve Sloan and find out how they got him."

Central Florida got Daunte Culpepper because in his junior year of high school his GPA was 1.5, far below the 2.0 required by the NCAA to play Division I-A sports. All the major colleges gave up on Culpepper, but Paul Lounsberry, an assistant coach at UCF, did not.

"All he did in school was go from one sport to the other," Lounsberry said. "Nobody ever sat down and showed him what he needed to do academically. I looked at his transcript, took out my calculator, and came up with a plan. I told him if he took the right courses and got A's and B's he could make it. Once he was given that goal he went for it."

By the middle of his senior year Culpepper had raised his

GPA above 2.0 and schools who had abandoned him came calling again, telling him he belonged in a big-time program. Culpepper never wavered. "The past was irrelevant," Culpepper said, "because I knew UCF was going Division I. I wanted to look back years from now and have people say, 'You know, Daunte Culpepper was one of the pioneers of that program. A guy who helped get it started.' Besides, UCF had faith in me. They showed me they cared."

That faith, humble a virtue as it is, was far more important to Culpepper than the splendors a big-time program could offer. There are things bigger in life than bowl games, national TV, and AP Polls, and Daunte, more than anyone, knows this. He was adopted as a baby by Emma Culpepper, who at the time was 50 years old, a poor widow with a full-time job and a tiny home. When Daunte's mother brought him to Emma, she took him in, the same way she'd taken in 15 other kids over the years.

"Daunte was always a good, good child," Emma said. "He never complained about the lack of material things. Long as I wrapped my arms around him and told him I loved him, he was happy."

Not even the potential riches of the NFL—riches that would have been extraordinary considering most draftniks rank him as a top-five talent—could change Daunte's thinking on material things. When others implored him to turn pro after his junior season last year, Daunte heeded the advice of his mom. "No matter how much money you have it can disappear," she told him, "but no one can take your education away from you. Get your degree,



Daunte. I want to see you walk down that aisle in a cap and gown."

With a mom like that, it's hardly surprising to hear what Daunte regards as his greatest accomplishment to date. It's not the nearly 8,000 passing yards he's amassed in three years at UCF, or the 56 touchdown passes he's thrown, or is it any of the accolades he's received because of his athletic prowess. "My greatest achievement," Culpepper said, "is making the dean's list last fall. All my life I wanted to hear my name called for something like that. And I plan to do it again, too."

As for his second-greatest achievement, Daunte's too humble to share, but we've got a guess. It was a performance that tells you everything you need to know about Culpepper as an athlete, a student and a person.

It was the afternoon of September 13, 1997, early in the game between the sixth-ranked Nebraska Cornhuskers and Central Florida, just starting its second season in Division I-A. According to most experts, UCF had no business being on the same field with the Cornhuskers, but there the Golden Knights were, not only on the Memorial Stadium field but down at Nebraska's end of it, 10 yards from the goal line. Thus far the game was scoreless, but Culpepper was determined to change that matter.

The Nebraska crowd was so loud that as Culpepper looked across the line of scrimmage at Nebraska's huge defensive squad he knew there was no way his receivers were going to hear him if he altered the play he'd called in the huddle. Culpepper didn't care. He had been given a pass play by the coaches, but he had a green light to call something else if the situation demanded it. What he saw now, as he stood there with his helmet vibrating from the noise, were the cornerbacks getting ready to bump-and-run and the linebackers advancing toward the line. No doubt about it, Nebraska was coming with a full-house blitz.

As always, Culpepper had worked overtime getting ready for the game. He studied films of Nebraska's defense, ana-

lyzing their various formations, committing the reads to memory the same as he'd done with every opponent he'd faced since the ninth grade. "I've been around football a long time and Daunte's the greatest athlete I've ever seen," Philip Yancey said. "But in addition to that he's the hardest worker I've ever seen."

Culpepper's preparation for Nebraska told him there was an area of vulnerabili-

ty in this blitz: the defensive end would be left alone to cover both him and the running back. With the play clock winding down, he made his decision: the man with the golden arm wouldn't pass. Instead he'd run an option play, pitching the ball if the end came for him, keeping it if the end went for the running back.

There were seven seconds left on the play clock as Culpepper raced back and forth screaming the play change then settled in under the center and took the snap. He rolled to his right, faked the pitch, saw the defensive end bite and kept the ball, turning upfield and crashing into a lineman, who bounced off him. A linebacker slammed into Daunte, wrapped his arms around his thighs and hung on as Daunte ran right

through a second linebacker and hurdled forward, pulling the first man along, willing himself across the goal line.

Despite scoring first and holding a 17-14 halftime lead, UCF eventually lost to Nebraska, 38-24. But their performance in Lincoln earned the Golden Knights national respect. Culpepper completed 24 of 35 passes in the game for 318 yards, the most by any quarterback against Nebraska in the '97 season. One of the passes was for a touchdown, but personal statistics were not what mattered to him. "I wanted to get into that end zone bad," he said. "It didn't matter to me what the odds were in that game. I wanted people to see what kind of team we really had."

Dedication to his team. It was his first priority at Vanguard, and it's still paramount to him even now when he's the quarterback on the *Playboy* All-America team, and, according to a high level NFL scouting source, certain to be the first or second player drafted in '99 if he stays healthy. Loyalty is one of the primary reasons he decided to return to UCF for his senior season.

"A lot of people told me I should leave," he said, "They told me I didn't need another year of college ball. They said take the money now, and truthfully I did consider it for a long time."

"Ultimately, though, the final decision came from my heart. See, I came here to Central Florida with a group of guys and we all worked hard together. I really thought that I should be here for my last year with them." ○

**"I'VE PLAYED  
WITH SOME  
GREAT ONES.  
TERRY  
BRADSHAW,  
KENNY  
ANDERSON,  
KENNY  
STABLER. ...  
DAUNTE  
CULPEPPER  
IS AS GOOD IF  
NOT BETTER  
THAN ALL OF  
THEM."**

**[CENTRAL FLORIDA  
COACH MIKE  
KRUCZEK]**



BRUCE SCHWARTZMAN



# Reader Survey

The editors of **Bob Griese's College Football Preview '98** would like to know more about your interests and activities to help us develop more exciting features. To thank you for your time and interest, everyone who faxes or mails us a completed survey will be entered in a sweepstakes drawing for a one-year subscription to **PRIMESTAR**®

1. Is this the first time you've read an issue of Bob Griese's College Football Preview '98?

5-1 ☐ Yes -2 ☐ No

2. If no, how would you compare this issue of Bob Griese's College Football Preview '98 to previous issues?

6-1 ☐ Much better -3 ☐ About the same -5 ☐ Didn't read  
-2 ☐ A little better -4 ☐ Worse previously

3. Which of the following magazines do you read regularly (that is, at least 3 out of 4 issues)? (Please check all that apply.)

7-1 ☐ Slam -7 ☐ Details 8-1 ☐ The Sporting News  
-2 ☐ Inside Sports -8 ☐ Golf Magazine -2 ☐ Men's Journal  
-3 ☐ Esquire -9 ☐ Outside  
-4 ☐ Golf Digest -0 ☐ Rolling Stone 9-x ☐ Other (please specify)  
-5 ☐ GQ -x ☐ Sports Illustrated  
-6 ☐ Sport -y ☐ Golf Magazine -y ☐ None of these

- 4a. Which of the following types of alcoholic beverages did you drink in the past 30 days? (Please check all that apply?)

- 4b. For each type of beverage you consumed, did you drink it either in your own home or out of home (for instance, in a bar, restaurant or tavern)?

	4a		4b		
	drank past 30 days		drank at own home or friend's house	drank at a bar or restaurant	drank elsewhere (like a ballpark or sports stadium)
Regular domestic beer	<input type="checkbox"/> 10-1		<input type="checkbox"/> 12-1	<input type="checkbox"/> 14-1	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-1
Low calorie domestic beer	<input type="checkbox"/> -2		<input type="checkbox"/> -2	<input type="checkbox"/> -2	<input type="checkbox"/> -2
Imported beer	<input type="checkbox"/> -3		<input type="checkbox"/> -3	<input type="checkbox"/> -3	<input type="checkbox"/> -3
Ale	<input type="checkbox"/> -4		<input type="checkbox"/> -4	<input type="checkbox"/> -4	<input type="checkbox"/> -4
Malt liquor	<input type="checkbox"/> -5		<input type="checkbox"/> -5	<input type="checkbox"/> -5	<input type="checkbox"/> -5
Bourbon	<input type="checkbox"/> -6		<input type="checkbox"/> -6	<input type="checkbox"/> -6	<input type="checkbox"/> -6
Gin	<input type="checkbox"/> -7		<input type="checkbox"/> -7	<input type="checkbox"/> -7	<input type="checkbox"/> -7
Canadian whisky	<input type="checkbox"/> -8		<input type="checkbox"/> -8	<input type="checkbox"/> -8	<input type="checkbox"/> -8
Mixed drinks	<input type="checkbox"/> -9		<input type="checkbox"/> -9	<input type="checkbox"/> -9	<input type="checkbox"/> -9
Rum	<input type="checkbox"/> -0		<input type="checkbox"/> -0	<input type="checkbox"/> -0	<input type="checkbox"/> -0
Scotch	<input type="checkbox"/> -x		<input type="checkbox"/> -x	<input type="checkbox"/> -x	<input type="checkbox"/> -x
Other whiskey	<input type="checkbox"/> -y		<input type="checkbox"/> -y	<input type="checkbox"/> -y	<input type="checkbox"/> -y
Vodka	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-1		<input type="checkbox"/> 13-1	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-1	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-1
Wine/champagne	<input type="checkbox"/> -2		<input type="checkbox"/> -2	<input type="checkbox"/> -2	<input type="checkbox"/> -2
Wine and spirits coolers	<input type="checkbox"/> -3		<input type="checkbox"/> -3	<input type="checkbox"/> -3	<input type="checkbox"/> -3
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> -4		<input type="checkbox"/> -4	<input type="checkbox"/> -4	<input type="checkbox"/> -4
(please specify)					
None of these	<input type="checkbox"/> -y				

Please tell us about yourself and your household.

5. Are you...? 18-1 ☐ Male -2 ☐ Female

6. What is your marital status?

19-1 ☐ Married -3 ☐ Separated/divorced  
-2 ☐ Single (never married) -4 ☐ Widowed

7. What is your age?

20-1 ☐ Under 18 -5 ☐ 30-34 -9 ☐ 50-54  
-2 ☐ 18-20 -6 ☐ 35-39 -0 ☐ 55-59  
-3 ☐ 21-24 -7 ☐ 40-44 -x ☐ 60 or older  
-4 ☐ 25-29 -8 ☐ 45-49

8. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Please check only one response.)

21-1 ☐ Some high school or less  
-2 ☐ Graduated high school  
-3 ☐ Attended/attending college (1-3 years)  
-4 ☐ Graduated from 4-year college  
-5 ☐ Postgraduate study without degree  
-6 ☐ Postgraduate degree

9. What is your best estimate of your personal total annual income in 1998, before taxes? (Be sure to include income from all sources, such as salaries, bonuses, interest, dividends, profits, Social Security, pensions, etc.)

22-1 ☐ Under \$15,000 -6 ☐ \$35,000-\$39,999  
-2 ☐ \$15,000-\$19,999 -7 ☐ \$40,000-\$49,999  
-3 ☐ \$20,000-\$24,999 -8 ☐ \$50,000-\$59,999  
-4 ☐ \$25,000-\$29,999 -9 ☐ \$60,000-\$74,999  
-5 ☐ \$30,000-\$34,999 -0 ☐ \$75,000 or more

10. What is your best estimate of your household's total annual income in 1998, before taxes? (Be sure to include income from all household members and from all sources, such as salaries, bonuses, interest, dividends, profits, Social Security, pensions, etc.)

23-1 ☐ Under \$15,000 -7 ☐ \$40,000-\$49,999  
-2 ☐ \$15,000-\$19,999 -8 ☐ \$50,000-\$59,999  
-3 ☐ \$20,000-\$24,999 -9 ☐ \$60,000-\$74,999  
-4 ☐ \$25,000-\$29,999 -0 ☐ \$75,000-\$99,999  
-5 ☐ \$30,000-\$34,999 -x ☐ \$100,000-\$124,999  
-6 ☐ \$35,000-\$39,999 -y ☐ \$125,000 or more

Thank you for your participation in this survey. We'd love you to join the **Sport Advisory Group** because we want to know more about you. We'll send you some surveys so you can tell us what you like and dislike, what you buy and read. You never know what will happen—we may send you free merchandise and invite you to cool sports events.

## Sweepstakes\*/Reader Panel

- ☐ YES, I would like my name entered into the **Bob Griese's College Football Preview '98** Sweepstakes. (Grand Prize: one-year subscription to Primestar.)

- ☐ YES, I would like to sign up for the **Sport Advisory Group**!

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

( )  
Daytime Phone

\*Void where prohibited

FAX: (212) 886-2812 or mail to: **Bob Griese's College Football Preview '98**, 110 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011 Attn: Reader Survey.

**PRIMESTAR**®



## PREDICTED STANDINGS

1. Florida St.
2. Georgia Tech
3. North Carolina
4. Virginia
5. Maryland
6. Clemson
7. N.C. State
8. Wake Forest
9. Duke

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

### Offensive

#### Player of the Year

Peter Warrick, Florida St.

### Defensive

#### Player of the Year

Dre' Bly, North Carolina

### Newcomer

Chris Hope, Florida St.

## 3 BIGGEST GAMES

### Oct. 24

Florida St. @ Ga. Tech

### Oct. 31

North Carolina @ Florida St.

### Sept. 26

Ga. Tech @ North Carolina

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Peter Warrick, Florida St.



► Florida State running back Travis Minor (#23) should emerge from the pack and contend for All-America honors in 1998.

# ACC

## All-ACC Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: Oscar Davenport	6-4/190	Sr.	North Carolina
RB: Travis Minor	6-1/190	So.	Florida State
RB: LaMont Jordan	5-11/214	So.	Maryland
WR: Peter Warrick	6-0/190	Jr.	Florida State
WR: L.C. Stevens	6-5/210	Sr.	North Carolina
TE: Casey Crawford	6-6/235	Jr.	Virginia
OL: Corey Hulsey	6-7/335	Jr.	Clemson
OL: Craig Page	6-3/288	Sr.	Georgia Tech
OL: Sam Settar	6-4/300	Jr.	Wake Forest
OL: Jason Whitaker	6-5/285	Jr.	Florida State
OL: John Feugill	6-7/299	Sr.	Maryland
PK: S. Janikowski	6-2/255	So.	Florida State

### [DEFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT./WT.	YR.	COLLEGE
DL: Tony Bryant	6-4/270	Sr.	Florida State
DL: Larry Smith	6-5/288	Jr.	Florida State
DL: Ebenezer Ekuban	6-4/278	Sr.	North Carolina
DL: Jesse Tarplin	6-3/250	Sr.	Georgia Tech
LB: Eric Barton	6-3/226	Sr.	Maryland
LB: Keith Newman	6-3/240	Sr.	North Carolina
LB: Wali Rainer	6-2/210	Sr.	Virginia
DB: Dre' Bly	5-10/190	Jr.	North Carolina
DB: A. Poindexter	6-1/205	Sr.	Virginia
DB: Dexter Jackson	6-1/195	Sr.	Florida State
DB: A. Edwards	6-1/210	Sr.	Clemson
P: Rodney Williams	6-1/185	Sr.	Georgia Tech





DoMARCO FOX-SS

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Must beat either Florida State or North Carolina on the road.
- Offensive line must protect inexperienced backfield.
- Veteran secondary must lead the defensive unit.

Tommy West knows that things will be different at Clemson this year. The fifth-year head coach must find replacements for the Tigers' all-time leading passer (Nealon Greene), all-time leading rusher (Raymond Priest), second-ranked tackler (Anthony Simmons) and single-season record-setting wide receiver (Tony Horne). Add to that list the school's two-best offensive linemen in the 1990s, All-ACC tackle Jim Bundren and All-ACC guard Glenn Roundtree. Overall, West has lost 23 lettermen and 12 starters from a team that lost three games by a touchdown or less.

"We have certainly lost some of Clemson's top players of the last decade," West said. "We will have to count on some new players, especially offensively, who have not had to carry the load. But we do have talented players returning, including some very good athletes from the class we redshirted a year ago. I don't think there will be a dropoff in talent, but there will be a dropoff in experience."

The Tigers are not likely to return to a bowl game for a fourth consecutive season, and how they do in the ACC will depend on how well the new pieces fit into the puzzle.

## OFFENSE

Junior Brandon Streeter, who was six of 12 for 72 yards in his first career start against Florida State, was the leading candidate to start at quarterback—until he broke his ankle in early spring. Also involved in the quarterback mix are Woody Dantzler, Slade Nagle and Jason Flanders. All three redshirted this past season.

Despite the loss of Horne, Clemson does have some depth and talent returning at wide receiver, including Brian Wofford and Mal Lawyer. Fullback Terry Witherspoon leads all returning rushers following his 222-yard

sophomore season in 1997. Witherspoon and Jarvis Austin are counted on to fill the hole created by Priest's departure, not an easy task.

The offensive line is weakened by the loss of Bundren and Roundtree, but there's still plenty of experience coming back. The Tigers have three solid returning starters in Holland Postell, Jason Gamble and Corey Hulsey.

## DEFENSE

The biggest hole on defense is at inside linebacker, where the Tigers must attempt to replace Simmons, who totaled 486 tackles in three seasons. "You can't replace Simmons; he did so much for our football team over the last three years," West said.

The outside linebacker and rush end positions should be strong this season with the return of starters Rahim Abdullah and Adrian Dingle. Abdullah had 73 tackles on the year and was Clemson's MVP in the Peach Bowl. He blocked two punts in that game and had one sack. Dingle has 30 tackles for loss and 12.5 sacks for his career. The defensive line must replace starters Raymond White, Tony Plantin and Lorenzo Bromell, all key contributors to a defense that ranked sixth in the country against the run last season.

This time a year ago the secondary was the most inexperienced aspect of the defense. However, by the end of the season, West found the right combination and it returns intact. Antawn Edwards had 15 passes broken up last year to tie a Clemson single-season record. Clemson's leading returning tackler is DoMarco Fox, who had 74 stops in his 12 starts, 10 at safety and two at cornerback.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

David Richardson missed just two field goals all season. Punter Kevin Laird has made great progress over his career and now is an All-ACC candidate. Laird finished the season with 16 punts inside the 20-yard line.

## RECRUITING

The Tigers signed seven players projected as interior linemen, three listed at more than 300 pounds. The coaching change at Arkansas helped Clemson get 6-5, 280-pound Brady Washburn, one of the top five prospects in Arkansas. Washburn's father, Jim, was an assistant coach at Arkansas under Danny Ford and was not retained when Ford was let go. The late addition of wide receiver Jackie Robinson from Orangeburg, S.C., helped salvage what was an unimpressive in-state performance.

By Peter Hayes

## CLEMSON Facts

**Coach:** Tommy West, 5th year; 28-20; 32-27 overall  
**'97 Record:** 7-5 (4-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Memorial Stadium, Clemson, S.C. (81,474; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (5 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Anthony Simmons, LB (1st-team All-ACC); Jim Bundren, OL (1st-team All-ACC); Glenn Roundtree, OL (1st-team All-ACC); Raymond Priest, RB (1st-team All-ACC); Tony Horne, WR (2nd-team All-ACC); Nealon Greene, QB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Brandon Streeter, Jr., 8-21-87 yards, 2 INTs

**Rushing:** Terry Witherspoon, Jr., 57 carries, 222 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Mal Lawyer, Jr., 27, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Brian Wofford, 383

**Tackles:** DoMarco Fox, Jr., 74

**Sacks:** Adrian Dingle, Sr., 4.5

**Interceptions:** Antawn Edwards, Sr., 4

**Punting:** Kevin Laird, Sr., 42.6 avg.

**Kicking:** David Richardson, Sr., 12-13 FGs (long 52), 15-18 PATs

**Scoring:** Richardson, 51

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 FURMAN  
9/12 VIRGINIA TECH  
9/19 @ Virginia  
9/26 WAKE FOREST  
10/3 @ North Carolina  
10/10 MARYLAND  
10/17 @ Florida State  
10/24 @ Duke  
10/31 N.C. STATE  
11/12 GEORGIA TECH  
11/21 S. CAROLINA

## 1997 RESULTS

APPALACHIAN ST.; W, 23-12  
@ N.C. STATE; W, 19-17  
FLORIDA ST.; L, 35-28  
@ Georgia Tech; L, 23-20  
TEXAS EL-PASO; W, 39-7  
VIRGINIA; L, 21-7  
@ Maryland; W, 20-9  
@ Wake Forest; W, 33-16  
DUKE; W, 29-20 (OT)  
N. CAROLINA; L, 17-10  
@ S. Carolina; W, 47-21  
vs. Auburn; L, 21-17\*

\* Peach Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Streeter (Jr., 6-3, 185) S. Nagle (Fr., 6-0, 190)  
RB: T. Zachery (Fr., 6-2, 185) D. Adams (Jr., 6-0, 224)  
FB: J. Austin (So., 5-11, 195) T. Witherspoon (Jr., 6-0, 240)\*  
WR: M. Lawyer (Jr., 6-1, 180) B. Wofford (Jr., 6-1, 160)\*  
WR: B. Gardner (So., 6-4, 212) M. Bailey (Fr., 6-4, 200)  
TE: W. Ellis (Sr., 6-4, 240) T.J. Watkins (Fr., 6-5, 235)  
LT: M. Butler (Sr., 6-4, 290) J. Mitchell (Jr., 6-6, 285)  
LG: C. Hulsey (Jr., 6-7, 335)\* M. Strewing (So., 6-2, 275)  
C: J. Gamble (Sr., 6-3, 290)\* K. Young (So., 6-3, 265)  
RG: B. Banasiewicz (Sr., 6-3, 293) N. Page (Fr., 6-4, 285)  
RT: H. Postell (Sr., 6-6, 290)\* J. McDermott (Fr., 6-5, 265)

### DEFENSE

DT: D. Broomfield (Sr., 6-4, 280) J. Holloman (So., 6-3, 274)  
MG: T. Jolly (So., 6-2, 280) J. Bush (Fr., 6-5, 265)  
DT: D. McKenzie (Jr., 6-2, 271) G. Childress (So., 6-3, 256)  
DE: A. Dingle (Sr., 6-3, 275)\* T. Bryant (So., 6-4, 246)  
LB: R. Abdullah (Jr., 6-6, 230)\* O.J. Childress (Sr., 6-2, 224)  
LB: C. Jones (Sr., 6-0, 221) R. Mitchell (Fr., 6-1, 219)  
LB: H. Means (Jr., 6-0, 215) K. Ross (So., 6-2, 205)  
CB: D. Crutchfield (So., 6-1, 180)\* A. Ardley (Fr., 5-10, 175)  
CB: A. Edwards (Sr., 6-1, 210)\* D. Polite (Fr., 5-11, 180)  
SS: D. Fox (Jr., 6-1, 183)\* C. Hafley (Fr., 6-3, 190)  
FS: R. Carswell (So., 6-2, 218)\* C. Speck (So., 6-0, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Richardson (Sr., 6-1, 178)\* M. Padgett (Jr., 6-0, 210)  
P: K. Laird (Sr., 5-11, 172)\* M. Brice (Sr., 5-11, 182)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• The Tigers had five first team All-ACC selections in 1997, their most since 1991.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.clemsonigers.com



## DUKE Facts



**Coach:** Fred Goldsmith, 5th year, 13-35; 38-90-1 overall  
**'97 Record:** 2-9 (0-8 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Wallace Wade Stadium, Durham, N.C.  
 (33,941, grass)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (7 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Chad Melita, OL (2nd-team, All-ACC);  
 Chike Egbuniwe, LB; Corey Thomas, WR; Tarawambi  
 Settles, CB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Bobby Campbell, So., 85-176-925 yards,  
 2 TDs, 10 INTs

**Rushing:** Dawud Rasheed, Sr., 78 carries, 321 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Scottie Montgomery, Jr., 51, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Montgomery, 633

**Tackles:** Ryan Stallmeyer, Jr., 128

**Sacks:** Chris Combs, Jr., 6

**Interceptions:** Eric Jones, Jr., 4

**Punting:** Brian Morton, So., 59 punts, 41.4 avg.

**Kicking:** Sims Lenhardt, Jr., 16-20 FGs (long 49);  
 22-22 PATs

**Scoring:** Lenhardt, 70

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 W. CAROLINA  
 9/12 @ Northwestern  
 9/19 @ Florida State  
 9/26 VIRGINIA  
 10/3 @ Georgia Tech  
 10/10 @ Wake Forest  
 10/17 @ N.C. State  
 10/24 CLEMSON  
 10/31 @ Vanderbilt  
 11/14 MARYLAND  
 11/21 N. CAROLINA

### 1997 RESULTS

N.C. STATE; L, 45-14  
 @ Northwestern; L, 24-20  
 ARMY; W, 20-17  
 NAVY; W, 26-17  
 @ Maryland; L, 16-10  
 FLORIDA ST.; L, 51-27  
 @ Virginia; L, 13-10  
 WAKE FOREST; L, 38-24  
 @ Clemson; L, 29-20  
 GA. TECH; L, 41-38  
 @ N. Carolina; L, 50-14

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: S. Romine (So., 6-3, 190)\* B. Campbell (So., 6-5, 205)  
 TB: L. Wilks (Jr., 6-0, 185)\* D. Epperson (So., 5-9, 185)  
 FB: D. Rasheed (Sr., 5-11, 230)\* D. Pierce (So., 5-10, 215)  
 WR: S. Montgomery (Jr., 6-1, 190)\* R. Owens (Jr., 6-0, 175)  
 WR: R. Flowers (So., 6-1, 190) B. Erdeljac (So., 6-1, 185)  
 TE: T. Dupree (Jr., 6-3, 230)\* J. Bachstein (Jr., 6-4, 240)  
 LT: W. White (So., 6-7, 275) B. Wallace (So., 6-3, 295)  
 LG: L. Friedman (Sr., 6-4, 280)\* S. Lynch (Fr., 6-4, 270)  
 C: T. Andrew (So., 6-5, 260) K. Schmid (So., 6-5, 245)  
 RG: W. Niemcow (So., 6-5, 285) R. Fleming (So., 6-3, 270)  
 RT: A. Smithwick (Jr., 6-6, 270)\* J. Miller (Fr., 6-6, 320)

### DEFENSE

DT: C. Combs (Jr., 6-6, 270)\* M. Alberto (So., 6-3, 250)  
 NG: E. Scanlan (Sr., 6-2, 255)\* M. Steinbaugh (Jr., 6-4, 250)  
 DT: G. Shepherd (Jr., 6-8, 260) Nate Krill (So., 6-7, 235)  
 LB: K. Lewis (Jr., 6-2, 220)\* C. Norkus (Sr., 6-2, 235)  
 LB: K. Knight (So., 6-3, 225)\* B. McCormack (Jr., 6-6, 235)  
 LB: R. Stallmeyer (Jr., 6-2, 220)\* C. Porter (Fr., 6-3, 240)  
 LB: R. Ament (So., 6-1, 220) T. DeLamiellure (Fr., 5-11, 215)  
 CB: L. Grant (Jr., 5-11, 185)\* J. Jenkins (Jr., 5-11, 195)  
 CB: A. Moyer (Sr., 5-9, 180)\* K. Holley (Sr., 5-11, 180)  
 SS: D. Clark (Jr., 5-11, 200) L. Roush (So., 6-0, 200)  
 FS: E. Jones (Jr., 6-0, 185)\* K. Webster (So., 6-1, 170)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: S. Lenhardt (Jr., 5-11, 185)\* M. Mapes (Sr., 5-8, 180)  
 P: B. Morton (So., 6-5, 215)\* S. Lenhardt (Jr., 5-11, 185)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONES

• Junior kicker Sims Lenhardt is 13 field goals away from breaking the Duke career record. He had 16 last season.

• Junior defensive tackle Chris Combs, who has averaged 14 tackles for losses per year, is 14 from the Duke career record.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.goduke.com



SPENCER ROMINE-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Improve turnover ratio of -1.25.
- Get stability from a two-man quarterback rotation.
- Improve eighth-worst defense in the ACC.

Duke has had a ready-made—and legitimate—excuse for poor seasons in 1996 and '97, when the Blue Devils were a combined 2-20: massive inexperience.

That excuse won't hold water this season, even if Duke has just two seniors starters on each side of the ball. And Blue Devils coach Fred Goldsmith knows it. "We're mainly a junior-sophomore team, not many seniors, but there's a lot of experience in key positions for us," Goldsmith said. "Two years ago we played a tremendous amount of freshmen. Last year we had young quarterbacks. This year, all those young players have that experience you need."

Duke hit bottom two years ago when it finished at 0-11, so last year's record of 2-9 was actually a move in a positive direction—though that mark doesn't reflect how much of an improvement truly took place. The Dukies lost to Clemson in overtime and dropped four other games by less than a touchdown.

"There were lots of heartbreaking losses in there," Goldsmith said. "Our kids need to turn that corner and turn some of those losses into wins. Hopefully, that's where the experience will come in. They've been in those games and seen what it takes to win."

### OFFENSE

Injuries took a toll at a number of positions last year. As a result, Bobby Campbell and Spencer Romine saw action at quarterback. The same was true at the tailback slot, where Letavious Wilks and Duane Epperson started at different times. According to Goldsmith, at both positions, "both will play."

The Blue Devils were fourth in the ACC in rushing last season at 126.1 yards per game, but three of the five starters on the offensive line are new. Dawud Rasheed, a battering ram of a fullback who averaged 4.1

yards per carry last season, returns to open holes for Epperson and Wilks, and make some for himself. At wideout, Scottie Montgomery, a 2nd-team All-ACC pick, is back and will be joined by Richmond Flowers. Flowers, whose father was a world-class hurdler in the 60s, was hurt most of last season but should help stretch opposing defenses if he can stay healthy.

### DEFENSE

If the Blue Devils are going to turn the corner this season, they will do so behind their defense, which returns eight starters. And those eight don't even include outside linebacker Brian McCormack, a dominant defender coming off the corner who missed last season with academic problems. Opposite McCormack will be Kevin Lewis, who finished third on the team in tackles last season with 83. Duke will have to replace Chike Egbunwie, the team's

leading tackler, at one inside linebacker, but do return Ryan Stallmeyer, whose 128 tackles placed him second to Egbunwie, at the other. It's a unit that could be among the best in the ACC.

Defensive tackle Chris Combs, who already is within range of the Blue Devils' career records for sacks and tackles for losses, leads the charge up front. Eric Jones, who had four interceptions from his free safety slot, heads up a secondary that returns three starters but does lose Hula Bowl participant Tarawambi Settles at cornerback.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

The Blue Devils have a strong kicking game, featuring junior Sims Lenhardt, who finished third in the voting for the Lou Groza Award, which honors the nation's top kicker. As a true freshman a year ago, punter Brian Morton averaged 41.4 yards a punt. Montgomery averaged just under 23 yards a return on kick-offs, and Ben Erdeljac handled most of the punt returns.

### RECRUITING

Duke hit the state of Michigan hard, getting six of its 13 signees from there, including five from Detroit. The best of the lot may turn out to be prep All-American quarterback D Bryant (6-3, 185), who could very well make his mark on "D" in the secondary for the Blue Devils. Two others of note: B.J. Hill (5-11, 195) is a tailback/cornerback who can bench more than 330 pounds, and Josh Kreider is a defensive back with size (6-1, 195) and speed (4.45 in the 40).

By Gregg Doyel





# Florida State



TRAVIS MINOR-RB

Much was made of the seven starting quarterbacks that Florida State knocked out of games last season. Always ferocious on defense, the Seminoles picked up in 1998 where they left off in '97, but unfortunately started four months early.

Presumed starting quarterback Dan Kendra tried to avoid a pass rush from redshirt freshman linebacker Bradley Jennings in the Garnet and Gold Spring game and promptly tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. Kendra underwent reconstructive surgery on April 9 and was expected to be out for five months. But Kendra, a renowned fitness freak, has an accelerated timetable that he hopes will help get him on the field for FSU's season opener. "If anybody can do it," said Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden, "Dan Kendra can."

Although the injury could linger as a major question for the six-time defending ACC champions, the Seminoles will make do with their oodles of talent and win with the same sort of defense that has annually destroyed the ACC since it first invaded the league in 1992.

## OFFENSE

If Kendra's out, the job should go to 26-year-old Chris Weinke, who signed with FSU in 1989 but didn't play until last season. Weinke spent the previous six years playing minor-league baseball. Weinke looked pretty good during spring drills, as did Marcus Outzen who, although he suffered a separated shoulder, should be healthy in time for the fall.

ACC Rookie of the Year Travis Minor is back to terrorize Seminole opponents. In his first start, Minor tore off an 87-yard TD run on his first carry, and he went on to rush for 623 yards—5.6 per attempt—and nine touchdowns. He'll run behind a line that returns three starters: tackle Ross Brannon and

guards Jason Whitaker and Donald Heaven.

FSU lost wideout E.G. Green, but junior Peter Warrick will be on everybody's preseason All-America teams. Warrick has great speed, makes acrobatic catches and can dominate a game. Warrick will team on the outside with Laveranues Coles, who broke his leg in the spring game but is expected to recover in time for two-a-days.

## DEFENSE

As the old superstars move on, the heir apparents take their place. Senior linebacker Lamont Green looms as the leader of the unit.

Green, who works from the weak side, is the leading tackler among returnees (85) and probably will line up alongside Bobby Rhodes in the middle and Deon Humphrey to the strong side.

Fronting Green and his mates will be a line led by a pair of returning starters in Jerry Johnson and Larry Smith, two juniors who were sensational in the spring. With Andre Wadsworth gone, FSU's new speed-rusher should be sophomore Roland Seymour, who had six sacks last season. Look for Tony Bryant to work the opposite end, though David Warren should also see extensive time.

Free safety Dexter Jackson is another All-America type and is expected to join forces with Green on the leadership front. Derrick Gibson will team with Jackson as a rover, with the corners manned by returning starter Tay Cody and probably senior Troy Saunders, who must replace departed All-ACC selection Samari Rolle.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Seminoles are set in their kicking game on all fronts. They have Warrick, maybe the best return man in the college game, plus superfoot placekicker Sebastian Janikowski, who made almost every freshman All-America team last season, and solid punter Keith Cottrell.

## RECRUITING

Once again, the Seminoles made an enviable recruiting haul rated among the nation's top five by a consensus of analysts. Highlighting the class are a trio of *Parade* All-Americans. Quarterback Jared Jones could factor into things, given the Kendra situation. Defensive back Chris Hope, of Rock Hill, S.C., is a big hitter. He could find a spot in a secondary vacated by two starters. Wideout Talman Gardner was one of the most sought-after receivers.

By Chris Harry

## FLORIDA ST. Facts

**Coach:** Bobby Bowden, 23rd season, 208-51-4; 281-83-4 overall  
**'97 Record:** 11-1 (8-0 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Doak Campbell, Tallahassee, Fla. (80,000, grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 13 (6 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Andre Wadsworth, DE (1st-team All-American); Sam Cowart, LB (1st-team All-American); Tra Thomas, OT (1st-team All-ACC); Thad Busby, QB (1st-team All-ACC); E.G. Green, WR (1st-team All-ACC); Samari Rolle, CB (1st-team All-ACC); Daryl Bush, LB (2nd-team All-ACC)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Dan Kendra, Jr., 20-37-341 yards, 3 TDs  
**Rushing:** Travis Minor, So., 112 carries, 623 yards, 9 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Peter Warrick, Jr., 53  
**Receiving (Yards):** Warrick, 884  
**Tackles:** Lamont Green, Sr., 85  
**Sacks:** Roland Seymour, So., 6  
**Interceptions:** Tay Cody, So., 3  
**Punting:** Keith Cottrell, So., 38.4 avg.  
**Kicking:** Sebastian Janikowski, So., 16-21 FGs (long 56), 37-39 PATs  
**Scoring:** Janikowski, 85 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

8/31 vs. Texas A&M\*  
 9/12 @ N.C. State  
 9/19 DUKE  
 9/26 USC  
 10/3 @ Maryland  
 10/10 @ Miami (Fla.)  
 10/17 CLEMSON  
 10/24 @ Georgia Tech  
 10/31 N. CAROLINA  
 11/7 VIRGINIA  
 11/14 @ Wake Forest  
 11/21 FLORIDA  
 \* Kickoff Classic

## 1997 RESULTS

@ USC; W, 14-7  
 MARYLAND; W, 50-7  
 @ Clemson; W, 35-28  
 MIAMI (FLA.); W, 47-0  
 @ Duke; W, 51-27  
 GA. TECH; W, 38-0  
 @ Virginia; W, 47-21  
 N.C. STATE; W, 48-35  
 @ N. Carolina; W, 20-3  
 WAKE FOREST; W, 58-7  
 @ Florida; L, 32-29  
 vs. Ohio State; W, 31-14\*  
 \* Sugar Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: D. Kendra (Jr., 6-2, 245) C. Weinke (So., 6-5, 225)  
 TB: T. Minor (So., 6-1, 190)\* J. Chaney (So., 6-0, 200)  
 FB: L. Glenn (Sr., 6-1, 241) W. McCray (So., 6-0, 222)  
 WR: P. Warrick (Jr., 6-0, 190)\* G. Stringer (Jr., 5-11, 185)  
 WR: L. Coles (Jr., 6-1, 195)\* R. Dugans (Jr., 6-3, 190)  
 TE: M. Jackson (Sr., 6-5, 260) N. Franklin (So., 6-6, 245)  
 LT: R. Brannon (So., 6-8, 300)\* J. Carmichael (So., 6-5, 300)  
 LG: J. Whitaker (Jr., 6-5, 285)\* J. Brett (Jr., 6-3, 300)  
 C: J. Moon (So., 6-4, 291) E. Thomas (Jr., 6-3, 278)  
 RG: D. Heaven (Jr., 6-3, 278)\* J. Amman (So., 6-4, 295)  
 RT: T. Thomas (So., 6-4, 295) C. Dorsey (So., 6-7, 325)

### DEFENSE

DE: T. Bryant (Sr., 6-4, 270) J. Reynolds (So., 6-4, 240)  
 DT: J. Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 280)\* B. Malone (So., 6-7, 263)  
 NG: L. Smith (Jr., 6-5, 288)\* C. Simon (Jr., 6-4, 275)  
 DE: R. Seymour (So., 6-4, 264) D. Warren (So., 6-5, 240)  
 LB: D. Humphrey (Sr., 6-4, 240) B. Allen (So., 6-2, 225)  
 LB: B. Rhodes (Jr., 6-1, 215) D. Stephens (Sr., 6-3, 236)  
 LB: L. Green (Sr., 6-3, 230)\* T. Polley (So., 6-5, 233)  
 CB: T. Saunders (Sr., 5-10, 185) A. Howard (So., 6-1, 190)  
 CB: T. Cody (So., 5-11, 180)\* C. Thomas (So., 6-0, 175)  
 SS: D. Gibson (So., 6-2, 200) J. Jeune (So., 5-11, 195)  
 FS: D. Jackson (Sr., 6-1, 195)\* T. Frier (Jr., 5-10, 180)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: S. Janikowski (So., 6-2, 255)\* K. Cottrell (So., 6-4, 205)  
 P: K. Cottrell (So., 6-4, 205)\* S. Janikowski (So., 6-2, 255)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

Florida State is the only program in the history of college football to finish ranked among *The Associated Press'* top four 11 consecutive years.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.fsu.edu/athletic



# GEORGIA TECH Facts



# Georgia Tech

**Coach:** George O'Leary, 4th year, 18-19

**'97 Record:** 7-5 (5-3 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Bobby Dodd Stadium, Atlanta, Ga. (46,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 16 (8 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Keith Brooking, LB (2nd-team All-ACC); Ralph Hughes, DL (2nd-team All-ACC); Ken Celaj, OL (2nd-team All-ACC); Harvey Middleton, SE; Derrick Steagall, WR; Ron Rogers, LB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Joe Hamilton, Jr., 173-268-2,314 yards, 12 TDs, 7 INTs

**Rushing:** Charles Wiley, Sr., 150 carries, 567 yards, 9 TDs

**Receiving (Receptions):** Mike Sheridan, Sr., 25

**Receiving (Yards):** Sheridan, 216

**Tackles:** Travares Tillman, Jr., 80

**Sacks:** Jesse Tarplin, Sr., 5

**Interceptions:** Tillman, Brian Wilkins, Sr., 4

**Punting:** Rodney Williams, Sr., 45.6 avg.

**Kicking:** Brad Chambers, Sr., 4-4 FGs (long 45); 6-6 PATs

**Scoring:** Wiley, 54

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 BOSTON COLL.  
9/12 NEW MEXICO ST.  
9/26 @ North Carolina  
10/3 DUKE  
10/10 @ N.C. State  
10/17 VIRGINIA  
10/24 FLORIDA STATE  
10/31 @ Maryland  
11/12 @ Clemson  
11/21 WAKE FOREST  
11/28 @ Georgia

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Notre Dame; L, 17-13  
@ Wake Forest; W, 28-26  
CLEMSON; W, 23-20  
@ Boston Coll.; W, 42-14  
N.C. STATE; W, 27-17  
@ Florida State; L, 38-0  
N. CAROLINA; L, 16-13  
@ Virginia; L, 35-31  
@ Duke; W, 41-38  
MARYLAND; W, 37-18  
GEORGIA; L, 27-24  
vs. W. Virginia; W, 35-30\*

\*CarQuest Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

**QB:** J. Hamilton (Jr., 5-10, 189)\* G. Godsey (Fr., 6-2, 202)  
**RB:** C. Wiley (Sr., 6-1, 220)\* C. Rogers (Sr., 5-10, 185)  
**FB:** E. Wilder (So., 6-2, 250)\* V. Johnson (Jr., 6-1, 240)  
**WR:** D. White (So., 6-1, 214) C. Daniels (Sr., 6-0, 186)  
**WR:** M. Sheridan (Sr., 6-2, 213) D. Powell (So., 6-3, 200)  
**TE:** M. Lillie (So., 6-3, 240)\* C. Myers (Sr., 6-7, 253)  
**LT:** C. Brown (So., 6-5, 315)\* B. Madigan (Jr., 6-5, 298)  
**LG:** J. Burks (Jr., 6-5, 280)\* K. Knapp (So., 6-4, 287)  
**C:** C. Page (Sr., 6-3, 288)\* N. King (So., 6-2, 272)  
**RG:** B. Key (So., 6-5, 271)\* A. Fernandez (Jr., 6-4, 304)  
**RT:** J. Carman (Jr., 6-8, 335) J. Moody (Fr., 6-5, 300)

## DEFENSE

**DE:** J. Tarplin (Sr., 6-3, 250)\* D. Simmons (Sr., 6-3, 247)  
**DT:** B. Corhen (So., 6-4, 302) I. Claxton (So., 6-6, 261)  
**NG:** T. Robinson (So., 6-4, 300)\* M. Watson (Fr., 6-3, 290)  
**DE:** R. Roberts (Sr., 6-3, 240) F. Claybrooks (So., 6-5, 260)  
**LB:** D. Cameron (Sr., 6-2, 237)\* M. Uremovich (Fr., 6-1, 215)  
**LB:** J. Robertson (Sr., 6-1, 236) B. Mitchell (Fr., 6-1, 230)  
**LB:** D. Booker (Jr., 5-11, 227) M. Miller (So., 6-4, 230)  
**CB:** J. Caldwell (Sr., 5-11, 190)\* K. Smith (Sr., 5-9, 178)  
**CB:** J. Bostic (Sr., 5-9, 181)\* J. Clark (So., 5-8, 170)  
**SS:** T. Tillman (Jr., 6-2, 190)\* T. Tolbert (So., 6-1, 195)  
**FS:** B. Wilkins (Sr., 6-3, 202)\* B. Wilcox (Jr., 6-1, 190)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

**K:** B. Chambers (Sr., 6-2, 196) K. Cornwell (So., 6-0, 193)  
**P:** R. Williams (Sr., 6-1, 185)\* M. Whatley (Sr., 6-1, 210)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Hamilton enters the season on a streak of 151 passing attempts without an interception.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.gatech.edu/athletic



JOE HAMILTON-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Must be successful early with five of first seven games at home.
- Replacements needed at linebacker for Brooking and Rogers.
- Hamilton will have to shoulder an inexperienced receiving corps.

The Yellow Jackets finished on an up note last season, beating West Virginia, 35-30, in the CarQuest Bowl and ending up No. 25 in the final AP poll. Head coach George O'Leary expects to build on that experience, and the return of 16 starters on offense, defense and special teams will certainly give him the ammunition he needs. In addition, he's pleased with this year's recruiting class.

"The main thing I wanted to bring in this year was speed, and I think that's what we did," said O'Leary, now in his fourth season at Georgia Tech. "We helped ourselves defensively in the secondary and up front with a couple of down linemen, and then helped the other positions."

"We went from playing 13 freshmen my first year to seven the next year and then four last year, and that's the way it should be. With the players that we have back from last year's team, it will be difficult to break into the two deep, but there are some in the class with enough talent to help out."

## OFFENSE

Back to direct the Yellow Jackets offense this season will be Joe Hamilton, who threw for 2,314 yards and 12 touchdowns and added 478 yards and five scores rushing. Already ranking fifth on Georgia Tech's career passing yards chart with 3,656 yards, Hamilton had seven 200-yard passing games last fall, including five straight to end the season.

Senior Charles Wiley returns to lead a deep crew at tailback. Wiley was Tech's leading rusher last season with 567 yards, and scored nine touchdowns while adding 16 receptions out of the backfield. Joining him in the rich backfield is senior Charlie Rogers, who rushed for 297 yards but was hampered by injuries. Also in the running is junior Phillip Rogers (no relation), who rushed for

256 yards and three touchdowns.

Perhaps the top priority for Tech this season is finding replacements for wide receivers Harvey Middleton and Derrick Steagall. Attempting to fill the void will be senior Mike Sheridan, a sure-handed possession receiver, and sophomore speedster Dez White. Four starters return on the offensive line, including two-year incumbent Craig Page at center. Page, who has started 22 straight games for the Yellow Jackets, is primed for All-ACC honors this fall.

## DEFENSE

Last year the Yellow Jackets saw their average yards per game allowed rocket up from just under 350 per game for the first five contests to just under 500 per game for the last half dozen. Defensive coordinator Randy Edsall, who comes over from the Jacksonville Jaguars, will have to turn that around without the standout linebacking duo of Keith Brooking and Ron Rogers, who have both moved on to the NFL. Deluanta Cameron, who made eight starts last year, will be asked to shoulder

the load for this unit. Justin Robertson, who has played well as Rogers' backup the past two years, will move into the starting lineup, and either Donte Booker or Matt Miller will be the third starter.

Defensive end Jesse Tarplin, who finished last season with 68 tackles and five sacks, and Tony Robinson, who played well as a freshman, anchor the defensive line. The secondary led the ACC in interceptions and all four starters, with 60 career starts combined, are back. Strong safety Travares Tillman and free safety Brian Wilkins each picked off four passes, and cornerbacks Jerry Caldwell and Jason Bostic combined for 106 tackles and two interceptions.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Rodney Williams was truly a weapon last year as he earned first-team All-ACC honors after averaging a school-record 45.6 yards per punt. Brad Chambers will handle the placekicking duties, after connecting on 4 of 4 field goal attempts as the backup a year ago.

## RECRUITING

O'Leary believes he found a replacement for Middleton and Steagall in Kerry Watkins from Laplace, La., who had 38 receptions for 895 yards and scored 19 touchdowns last season. Tech also signed the Class AAAA Player of the Year in Georgia, running back Joe Burns from Thomasville, Ga.

By Peter Hayes





# Maryland



LaMONT JORDAN-RB

and became the first freshman in school history to post two 100-yard games in a season. Jordan bore the brunt of the Terps' offense, accounting for 71 percent of the team's rushing yards in '97.

Maryland returns its top four receivers, including Moises Cruz, who became just the second freshman to finish the season as the Terps leading receiver. Omar Cheeseboro, made the most of his 14 receptions by scoring a team-high four touchdowns. The offensive line returns three starters, led by John Feugill, who allowed just five sacks.

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Continued improvement of last year's freshmen.
- The talented trio of returning linebackers must anchor the defense.
- Vanderlinden must get more out of his offense the second time around.

**R**on Vanderlinden signed on as head coach to reverse the fortunes of Maryland's football program, which has struggled to compete in the ACC throughout the '90s. Although it wasn't reflected in his 2-9 first-year record, Vanderlinden has instituted changes that should get results in the near future—perhaps even this year. He's especially focused on his underclassmen and their efforts both on the field and in the classroom. "We wanted to teach them to be fast starters," Vanderlinden said.

Improvement will be expected in 1998 as Maryland returns a number of starters as well as a large group of players with game experience. A number of freshman saw extensive action last season, and Vanderlinden expects the same for this year and into the future. "As our record improves in the years to come, our potential to continue to upgrade in recruiting will also be evident," Vanderlinden said.

## OFFENSE

Ken Mastrole will be the starter at quarterback now that Brian Cummings has graduated. Mastrole completed 43 of 108 passes for 437 yards and one touchdown as Cummings' backup for the past two seasons, but actually saw most of his action two years ago when he appeared in eight games as a freshman. How well he fills the starter's shoes will go a long way toward determining what kind of season the Terps will have.

Mastrole's job will be made easier if sophomore running back LaMont Jordan can maintain the success he experienced last season. Jordan emerged as one of the ACC's top freshmen, leading the Terps and finishing fifth in the conference with 689 rushing yards. Jordan also led all freshmen in the ACC in all-purpose yards with 920

## DEFENSE

A talented trio of linebackers will be the focal point of the Maryland defense, which returns seven starters in all. Seniors Eric Barton and Kendall Ogle and junior Erwyn Lyght all had solid seasons in 1997. Ogle, a former fullback, led the team and was second in the ACC with 138 tackles, including seven for losses, and Barton was right behind him with 134 stops after leading Maryland in tackles as a sophomore in 1995 with 106. Lyght had 62 tackles, including four for losses.

The defensive line will be much improved with the return of junior nose guard Delbert Cowsette and senior defensive end Rasheed Simmons. Cowsette had 63 tackles and 10 tackles for loss, while Simmons tallied six stops behind the line of scrimmage to go along with his 32 tackles. Two starters return to the secondary, led by junior cornerback Lewis Sanders, who had a team-high four interceptions and was third on the team in tackles with 74.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Maryland returns both its kicking specialists. Placekicker Brian Kopka tied for the team scoring lead with 30 points, making good on six of 10 field goal attempts, and punter Russell Edwards averaged 38.0 yards on 58 punt attempts, with a long of 56 yards.

## RECRUITING

The Terps landed Todd Wike from Lebanon, Pa., one of the top tight ends in the country, and they also signed three of the top 10 prospects in New York. Calvin McCall, a quarterback from Orlando, Fla., and Marc Riley, a 6-3, 205-pound running back from Coram, N.Y., were Maryland's No. 1 recruiting targets at their respective positions. Little-known Renard Cox could start in the secondary after an apprenticeship at Lackawanna (Pa.) JC.

By Gregg Doyel

## MARYLAND Facts

**Coach:** Ron Vanderlinden, 2nd year, 2-9  
**'97 Record:** 2-9 (1-7 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Byrd Stadium, College Park, Md. (48,055; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 15 (6 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Brian Cummings, QB; Buddy Rogers, RB; Henry Baker, DB; Eric Ogbogu, DL

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Ken Mastrole, Jr., 7-19-83 yards, 1 INT  
**Rushing:** LaMont Jordan, So., 159 carries, 689 yards, 3 TDs  
**Receiving (Receptions):** Moises Cruz, So., 29, 1 TD  
**Receiving (Yards):** Cruz, 337  
**Tackles:** Kendall Ogle, Sr., 138  
**Sacks:** Eric Barton, Sr., 2.5  
**Interceptions:** Lewis Sanders, Jr., 4  
**Punting:** Russell Edwards, Sr., 38.0 avg.  
**Kicking:** Brian Kopka, So., 6-10 FGAs (long 47); 12-13 PATs  
**Scoring:** Kopka, 30

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 JAMES MADISON  
 9/12 @ Virginia  
 9/19 @ West Virginia  
 9/26 TEMPLE  
 10/3 FLORIDA STATE  
 10/10 @ Clemson  
 10/17 WAKE FOREST  
 10/31 GEORGIA TECH  
 11/7 @ North Carolina  
 11/14 @ Duke  
 11/21 N.C. STATE

## 1997 RESULTS

OHIO; L, 21-14  
 @ Florida State; L, 50-7  
 N. CAROLINA; L, 40-14  
 @ Temple; W, 24-21  
 DUKE; W, 16-10  
 W. VIRGINIA; L, 31-14  
 @ Wake Forest; L, 35-17  
 CLEMSON; L, 20-9  
 VIRGINIA; L, 45-0  
 @ N.C. State; L, 45-28  
 @ Ga. Tech; L, 37-18

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: K. Mastrole (Jr., 6-3, 225) T. Evans (Jr., 6-1, 187)  
 RB: L. Jordan (So., 5-11, 214)\* D. Boone (So., 5-9, 195)  
 FB: M. Kalapinski (So., 6-1, 218) F. Mentzel (So., 6-1, 218)  
 WR: M. Cruz (So., 5-11, 167)\* J. Hatala (So., 6-0, 167)  
 WR: O. Cheeseboro (So., 6-2, 181) J. Arrington (So., 6-4, 212)  
 TE: M. Hull (So., 6-5, 231)\* J. Waerig (Jr., 6-2, 262)  
 LT: B. Messina (Jr., 6-5, 287)\* M. Sherman (Fr., 6-4, 320)  
 LG: E. Timothy (Jr., 6-3, 287) M. George (Fr., 6-4, 300)  
 C: B. Thomas (So., 6-2, 285)\* A. Surman (Sr., 6-1, 284)  
 RG: J. Wu (Jr., 6-3, 317) C. Snader (Fr., 6-5, 300)  
 RT: J. Feugill (Sr., 6-7, 299)\* T. Howard (So., 6-4, 309)

### DEFENSE

DE: B. Swift (Fr., 6-1, 213) A. Thompson (Fr., 6-1, 212)  
 DT: K. Jenkins (So., 6-5, 268) D. Jones (Fr., 6-1, 254)  
 NT: D. Cowsette (Jr., 6-1, 255)\* M. Fowler (Fr., 6-3, 252)  
 DE: P. Timmins (Jr., 6-3, 243) R. Simmons (Sr., 6-5, 237)\*  
 LB: K. Ogle (Sr., 6-1, 226)\* B. Lewis (Fr., 6-0, 233)  
 LB: E. Barton (Sr., 6-3, 226)\* M. Graves (Fr., 6-0, 230)  
 LB: E. Lyght (Jr., 6-0, 201)\* J. Huggins (Jr., 6-1, 220)  
 CB: L. Sanders (Jr., 6-1, 192)\* B. Boggs (Jr., 6-0, 174)  
 CB: L. Washington (Jr., 5-8, 168) C. Crosby (Sr., 5-10, 172)\*  
 SS: S. Forte (So., 6-0, 198) C. Sanders (Fr., 6-1, 200)  
 FS: P. Jackson (Sr., 5-11, 186) T. Jackson (So., 6-1, 198)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Kopka (So., 5-7, 172)\* B. Rhodes (Sr., 5-7, 162)  
 P: R. Edwards (Sr., 5-11, 215)\* S. Starnier (So., 5-11, 184)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Terp defense has come up with at least one turnover in 16 straight games.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.umterps.com



# NORTH CAROLINA Facts



# North Carolina

**Coach:** Carl Torbush, 1st full year, 1-0

**'97 Record:** 11-1 (7-1 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Kenan Stadium, Chapel Hill, N.C. (57,800; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 11 (5 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Brian Simmons, LB (1st-team All-American); Greg Ellis, DL (1st-team All-American); Jeff Saturday, C (1st-team All-ACC); Vonnice Holliday, DL (1st-team All-ACC); Robert Williams, DB (1st-team All-ACC); Kivuusama Mays, LB (1st-team All-ACC); Jonathan Linton, RB (2nd-team All-ACC); Omar Brown, DB (2nd-team All-ACC)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Oscar Davenport, Sr., 115-183-1,380 yards, 7 TDs, 3 INTs

**Rushing:** Deon Dyer, Jr., 25 carries, 90 yards, 1 TD

**Receiving (Catches):** Na Brown, Sr., 55, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** L.C. Stevens, Sr., 727

**Tackles:** Keith Newman, Sr., 79

**Sacks:** Ebenezer Ekuban, Sr., 5

**Interceptions:** Dre' Bly, Jr., 5

**Punting:** Brian Schmitz, Jr., 40.0 avg.

**Kicking:** Josh McGee, Jr., 12-16 FGs (long 46); 34-36 PATs

**Scoring:** Brown, Alge Crumpler, Jr., 24

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 MIAMI (OHIO)  
9/19 @ Stanford  
9/26 GEORGIA TECH  
10/3 CLEMSON  
10/10 PITTSBURGH  
10/24 @ Wake Forest  
10/31 @ Florida State  
11/7 MARYLAND  
11/14 @ Virginia  
11/21 @ Duke  
11/28 N.C. STATE

## 1997 RESULTS

INDIANA; W, 23-6  
STANFORD; W, 28-17  
@ Maryland; W, 40-14  
VIRGINIA; W, 48-20  
@ TCU; W, 31-10  
WAKE FOREST; W, 30-12  
@ N.C. State; W, 20-7  
@ Georgia Tech; W, 16-13  
FLORIDA STATE; L, 20-3  
@ Clemson; W, 17-10  
DUKE; W, 50-14  
VIRGINIA TECH; W, 42-3\*

\*Gator Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: O. Davenport (Sr., 6-4, 190) \* K. Carty (So., 6-4, 218)  
RB: D. Williams (So., 6-0, 205) R. Anderson (So., 5-11, 190)  
FB: D. Dyer (Jr., 6-0, 250) \* B. Robinson (So., 6-2, 220)  
WR: N. Brown (Sr., 6-1, 185) \* J. Peace (Jr., 6-2, 185)  
WR: L.C. Stevens (Sr., 6-5, 215) \* G. Harris (Jr., 6-2, 210)  
TE: A. Mogridge (Jr., 6-5, 250) D. Finger (So., 6-5, 250)  
LT: K. Ellis (Jr., 6-5, 300) R. Nixon (Jr., 6-5, 298)  
LG: M. Gimbol (Jr., 6-4, 305) \* C. Holland (So., 6-3, 305)  
C: J. Surigao (Sr., 6-5, 280) R. Carley (Jr., 6-2, 295)  
RG: J. Ellison (Jr., 6-3, 300) J. Hall (Jr., 6-3, 310)  
RT: J. Wagstaff (So., 6-4, 340) B. Jones (Jr., 6-4, 270)

### DEFENSE

DE: M. Pringley (Sr., 6-5, 255) \* S. McQueen (So., 6-5, 230)  
DT: M. Dow (Sr., 6-0, 260) V. Ballard (So., 6-4, 255)  
DT: R. Davis (Sr., 6-4, 265) \* R. McCain (Jr., 6-3, 255)  
DE: E. Ekuban (Sr., 6-4, 278) T. Simpson (Sr., 6-4, 240)  
LB: K. Newman (Sr., 6-3, 240) \* R. Smith (So., 6-4, 200)  
LB: B. Spoon (Jr., 6-3, 235) T. Burgess (So., 6-2, 240)  
LB: S. Hodge (So., 6-5, 210) S. Woodard (Jr., 6-2, 220)  
CB: D. Bly (Jr., 5-10, 190) \* A. Anderson (So., 5-9, 165)  
CB: S. Fisher (Sr., 5-10, 180) E. Hood (So., 6-0, 190)  
SS: J. Legins (Sr., 5-11, 190) Q. Savage (So., 6-0, 190)  
FS: A. Black (So., 5-10, 195) D. Bomar (Jr., 6-0, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. McGee (Jr., 5-10, 185) \* B. Schmitz (Jr., 6-1, 160)  
P: B. Schmitz (Jr., 6-1, 160) \* D. DePriest (Jr., 6-8, 237)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Senior wide receiver Na Brown, who has 110 career receptions, needs 46 catches this year to pass Corey Holliday for the top spot in school history.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.tarheels.unc.edu.com



DRE' BLY-CB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- QB Oscar Davenport must remain healthy.
- Find a trusty replacement for Robert Williams at corner.
- Improve the play on special teams.

Carl Torbush, the semi-new coach of North Carolina, should be looking forward to his first full year as a head coach, but instead, he can't stop looking back. Back to 1994 to be exact. Back then, head coach Mack Brown, coming off a 10-3 season, lost an array of key players to the NFL. In their place he was forced to play a group of freshman by the names of Brian Simmons, Greg Ellis, Vonnice Holliday, Kivuusama Mays and Jonathan Linton. Now, in 1998, coming off a win in the Gator Bowl, Torbush has lost a group of key players to the NFL. In their place he'll insert a new crop of players whom he hopes will be successful enough to reach the NFL themselves some day.

## OFFENSE

Senior quarterback Oscar Davenport suffered a broken right ankle in the loss to Florida State and spent the entire offseason rehabilitating. The Tar Heels' success will depend on his recovery. Davenport is North Carolina's all-time leader in completion percentage (.637). Of course, having the senior receiving duo of Na Brown and L.C. Stevens has certainly contributed to Davenport's success. Sophomore Domonique Williams is the only returning tailback who has seen any playing time, and he will have to fill the large hole left by the departure of Linton, who ran for 1,004 yards last season. Tight end Alge Crumpler is lost for the season after suffering a knee injury in spring practice. His blocking abilities will be missed most since North Carolina lost four starting seniors from the offensive line. But the line does have size on its side. Junior guards Mike Gimbol and Joe Ellison are both 300-pounders, and 340-pound sophomore tackle James Wagstaff is, according to Torbush, "a big sucker."

## DEFENSE

The Tar Heels allowed only 209.3 yards per game, the lowest total since the 1948 team, and the fifth straight year the defense had improved from the year before. Simmons, Ellis and cornerback Dre' Bly earned consensus All-America honors. But only Bly remains. After losing safeties Omar Brown and Greg Williams to graduation, North Carolina was caught by surprise when cornerback Robert Williams announced that he would be bypassing his final year of eligibility for a shot at the NFL. The Tar Heels' vaunted pass defense (81.5 yards per game) may at last be vulnerable.

Senior Steve Fisher gets a long-awaited crack at the starting lineup, but he's in an unenviable position. Since few teams throw in Bly's direction, Fisher will be a marked man at the opposite corner.

The defensive line features four seniors who've seen steady playing time. Ebenezer Ekuban (five sacks) is under the gun to replace Ellis (nine sacks) and Marcus Dow

will try to fill the shoes of Holliday (13 tackles for loss). Torbush is confident that the frontline will come together, and he's downright excited about his linebackers. "I don't see us taking a step backward at linebacker at all," Torbush said. Senior Keith Newman and junior Brandon Spoon have the speed that most coaches covet, and as for Sedrick Hodge, he reminds Torbush "of a taller, younger Brian Simmons, only Sedrick's probably faster."

## SPECIAL TEAMS

This is an area where the Tar Heels have been more average than they would like. "I think we've been a top-10 football team on both sides of the football," Torbush says. "But I'm not sure we've been a top-10 team on special teams." Junior placekicker Josh McGee was a respectable 12 out of 16 on field-goal attempts, but junior punter Brian Schmitz placed only 16 of 57 punts inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

## RECRUITING

Two-sport star Ronald Curry out of Virginia was the jewel. He made the whole country wait. Curry verbally committed to Virginia in September and then pulled the rug out from under his hometown fans by agreeing to join the Tar Heels. The catch is he'll play quarterback for now but considers himself a stud on the hard court and has said that he intends to pursue a career in the NBA after his sophomore year.

By Bryon Evje





# N.C. State



TORRY HOLT-WR

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The Wolfpack need Rashon Spikes to step in and keep the ground game rolling.
- An inexperienced corps of linebackers and linemen needs to mature quickly.
- Jamie Barnett to Torry Holt must hook up as often as possible.

What started with a stunning victory over nationally-ranked Syracuse on a gutsy two-point conversion ended with Mike O'Cain wondering whether he'd be in Raleigh for a sixth season. Only after the Wolfpack ended their season with an easy victory over in-state rival East Carolina, giving N.C. State three straight victories and a winning season, was O'Cain's contract renewed.

Still, rallying to break .500 is a far cry from the Wolfpack's regular bowl appearances from 1988 to 1994. And with the stellar backfield of Tremayne Stephens and Carlos King departed, O'Cain will look to junior quarterback Jamie Barnett to lead N.C. State back to the postseason. "Jamie really stepped up last fall and did a tremendous job," said O'Cain, who is 28-29 in his five seasons in Raleigh. "Obviously, we have tremendous confidence in his abilities and the way he led this football team."

## OFFENSE

Barnette is one of an increasing minority in college football, a quarterback given the opportunity to prove his mettle as a freshman. After his redshirt season, Barnett stepped in to start the Wolfpack's final seven games of 1996 and he's been under center ever since.

Last season, he completed 56.6 percent of his passes for 2,378 yards and 19 touchdowns with 14 interceptions. His ability to repeat those kind of numbers was certainly helped by the return of All-ACC wide receiver Torry Holt, who set school records with 62 catches, 1,099 yards and 16 touchdowns. "He has the chance to be an All-American receiver for us," O'Cain said.

Chris Coleman and Eric Leak also return at wideout. In the backfield, Rashon Spikes,

who has rushed for 429 yards in two seasons, has the inside track to take over for ACC rushing champion Stephens, whose 1,142 yards are going to be hard to replace. Theo Chavis, who had just 16 carries last season, will challenge Spikes for playing time, and Jeff Butler is the likely candidate to succeed King at fullback. Three starters return on the offensive line, led by tackles Ian Rafferty and Todd Boyle.

## DEFENSE

O'Cain has plenty of holes to fill as only one starter, end Bobbie Cotton, returns from the front seven. Likely to see time opposite him will be Clint Johnson, with Greg Derrick, a JUCO transfer who came on strong after adjusting to life in Division I-A, also in the mix. At tackle, Andre Wray (three sacks last season), Darius Bryant, Rashad Streets, and Cecil McCarty will all be in the rotation.

Sheldon Kee will step in for the departed Morocco Brown at middle linebacker. He'll be joined by sophomore Tramayne Simmons and converted safety Clayton White, with junior Derek Roberts pushing for playing time. The secondary, an N.C. State trademark, is thin. Tony Scott returns at one corner, and Eric Riddick will likely see time at both safety and cornerback.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Sophomore Kent Passingham and junior Scott Earwood will battle to take over for the departed Chris Hensler. Earwood has more experience, having kicked and punted at Catawba before transferring. Passingham kicked only once last season, handling kick-off chores against Duke. Earwood should be the Wolfpack's punter, unless he's overtaken by redshirt freshman Jesse Wade.

## RECRUITING

O'Cain's tenuous status caused the Wolfpack to get a late start on the recruiting trails and prevented N.C. State from landing any of the state's top 10 prospects. As a result, O'Cain had to look far and wide for talent. Among those O'Cain did lure to Raleigh were linebackers George Anderson of LaPorte, Texas, and Brian Jamison of Swedesboro, N.J. O'Cain signed one notable in-state player, wide receiver Adrian Wilson from High Point, who signed with the Wolfpack after making an earlier commitment to East Carolina. Wilson averaged 20 yards per catch in only his second season of football.

By Jonathan Dalton

## N.C. STATE Facts

**Coach:** Mike O'Cain, 6th year, 28-29

**'97 Record:** 6-5 (3-5 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Carter-Finley Stadium, Raleigh, N.C. (59,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 10 (7 off., 3 def.)

**Key Players Lost:** Lonnie Gilbert, OL (1st-team All-ACC); Tremayne Stephens, TB (1st-team All-ACC); Carlos King, FB; Mark Thomas, SE; Morocco Brown, LB; Duan Everett, LB; Brad Collins, DE; George Williams, DT; Chris Hensler, K; Jason Biggs, P

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jamie Barnette, Jr., 171-302-2,378 yards, 19 TDs, 14 INTs

**Rushing:** Rashon Spikes, Jr., 67 carries, 297 yards, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Torry Holt, Sr., 62, 16 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Holt, 1,099

**Tackles:** Sheldon Kee, Jr., 82

**Sacks:** Bobbie Cotton, Sr., 4

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** Holt, 114 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/3 OHIO  
9/12 FLORIDA STATE  
9/19 @ Baylor  
10/1 SYRACUSE  
10/10 GEORGIA TECH  
10/17 DUKE  
10/24 @ Virginia  
10/31 @ Clemson  
11/7 WAKE FOREST  
11/21 @ Maryland  
11/28 @ North Carolina

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Syracuse; W, 32-31  
@ Duke; W, 45-14  
CLEMSON; L, 19-17  
N. ILLINOIS; W, 41-14  
@ Wake Forest; L, 19-18  
@ Georgia Tech; L, 27-17  
N. CAROLINA; L, 20-7  
@ Florida State; L, 48-35  
MARYLAND; W, 45-28  
VIRGINIA; W, 31-24  
E. CAROLINA; W, 37-24

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

QB: J. Barnett (Jr., 6-0, 188)\* C. Berry (So., 6-3, 195)  
RB: B. Spikes (Jr., 5-11, 204) T. Chavis (Sr., 5-9, 186)  
FB: J. Butler (Sr., 6-0, 226) K. Hubbard (Jr., 6-0, 263)  
WR: T. Holt (Sr., 6-1, 193)\* E. Leak (So., 5-9, 184)  
WR: C. Coleman (Jr., 6-0, 195)\* R. Brown (Sr., 6-0, 180)  
TE: M. Foushee (Sr., 6-5, 243) D. Smith (Sr., 6-5, 251)  
LT: I. Rafferty (Sr., 6-6, 300)\* J. Borum (So., 6-8, 332)\*  
LG: A. Santos (Sr., 6-3, 316)\* R. Knudtson (Jr., 6-5, 298)  
C: J. Burroughs (Sr., 6-5, 281) J. J. Jones (Sr., 6-4, 288)  
RG: A. Rice (So., 6-5, 307) R. Knudtson (Jr., 6-5, 298)  
RT: T. Boyle (Jr., 6-7, 295)\* J. Fletcher (Jr., 6-8, 305)

## DEFENSE

DE: B. Cotton (Sr., 6-2, 250)\* C. Smith (Fr., 6-4, 244)  
DT: B. Streets (So., 6-1, 272) C. McCarty (So., 6-4, 264)  
DT: D. Bryant (Fr., 6-1, 290) A. Wray (Sr., 6-6, 275)  
DE: C. Johnson (So., 6-4, 254) G. Derrick (Sr., 6-6, 281)  
LB: T. Simmons (So., 6-3, 232) D. Roberts (Jr., 6-2, 225)  
LB: S. Kee (Jr., 6-0, 247) D. Roberts (Jr., 6-2, 225)  
LB: C. White (So., 6-0, 230) K. Turks (Sr., 6-3, 222)  
CB: L. Harrison (Jr., 5-11, 180) M. Hough (Jr., 5-10, 175)  
CB: T. Scott (Jr., 6-0, 184)\* E. Riddick (Jr., 6-1, 185)\*  
SS: R. Redd (Sr., 5-10, 184) E. Riddick (Jr., 6-1, 185)\*  
FS: J. Perry (Sr., 6-2, 200) S. Taylor (Jr., 6-0, 186)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: S. Earwood (Jr., 6-1, 183) K. Passingham (So., 5-10, 171)  
P: S. Earwood (Jr., 6-1, 183) J. Wade (Fr., 6-2, 216)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• With 44 catches and 516 yards receiving, Torry Holt will become the Wolfpack's career leader in both categories, surpassing Eddie Goines.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/athletics





# Virginia

## VIRGINIA Facts

**Coach:** George Welsh, 17th year, 112-72-3;  
167-118-4 overall  
**'97 Record:** 7-4 (5-3 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Scott Stadium, Charlottesville, Va.  
(40,000; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 15 (6 off., 9 def.)  
**Key Players Lost:** Germane Crowell, WR; Doug Karczewski, OT; John Allen Roberts, K; Frank Rotella, P; Stephen Phelan, CB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Aaron Brooks, Sr., 164-270-2,282 yards, 20 TDs, 7 INTs  
**Rushing:** Thomas Jones, Jr., 201 carries, 692 yards, 4 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Terrence Wilkins, Sr., 37, 4 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Wilkins, 506  
**Tackles:** Wali Rainer, Sr., 118  
**Sacks:** Rainer, 9  
**Interceptions:** Anthony Poindexter, Sr., 4  
**Punting:** None  
**Kicking:** None  
**Scoring:** Brooks, 150

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/4 @ Auburn  
9/12 MARYLAND  
9/19 CLEMSON  
9/26 @ Duke  
10/3 SAN JOSE ST.  
10/17 @ Georgia Tech  
10/24 N.C. STATE  
10/31 @ Wake Forest  
11/7 @ Florida State  
11/14 N. CAROLINA  
11/21 @ Virginia Tech

### 1997 RESULTS

AUBURN; L, 28-17  
RICHMOND; W, 26-7  
@ N. Carolina; L, 48-20  
WAKE FOREST; W, 21-13  
@ Clemson; W, 21-7  
DUKE; W, 13-10  
FLORIDA STATE; L, 47-21  
@ Maryland; W, 45-0  
GEORGIA TECH; W, 35-31  
@ N.C. State; L, 31-24  
VIRGINIA TECH; W, 34-20

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: A. Brooks (Sr., 6-3, 195)\* D. Ellis (So., 6-3, 216)  
RB: T. Jones (Jr., 5-10, 185)\* A. Womack (So., 6-0, 195)  
FB: A. Southern (Jr., 6-0, 240)\* C. Mulligan (Jr., 6-2, 235)  
WR: T. Wilkins (Sr., 5-9, 180)\* K. Coffey (So., 6-4, 185)  
WR: A. Hawkins (So., 5-10, 180) S. Jones (Jr., 6-2, 200)  
TE: C. Crawford (Jr., 6-6, 235)\* B. Baber (So., 6-3, 265)  
LT: J. Jones (So., 6-5, 305) J. Lawson (So., 6-5, 275)  
LG: N. LaMontagne (Jr., 6-4, 290) D. Garland (Sr., 6-4, 285)  
C: J. St. Clair (Jr., 6-5, 260) E. Routzahn (So., 6-6, 285)  
RG: F. Chamoun (Sr., 6-4, 290) K. Hillerich (Jr., 6-3, 270)  
RT: R. Hunt (Sr., 6-3, 285)\* E. Hunt (Jr., 6-6, 275)

#### DEFENSE

DE: T. Griffith (Jr., 6-3, 240)\* S. Taylor (Jr., 6-3, 235)  
DT: J. Shivers (Sr., 6-5, 290)\* K. Bawuah (So., 6-2, 270)  
DT: T. Dingle (Sr., 6-3, 285)\* M. Anderson (Jr., 6-3, 290)  
DE: P. Kerney (Sr., 6-5, 240)\* W. Jackson (Jr., 6-5, 230)  
LB: B. Thweatt (So., 6-1, 220)\* A. McNeal (Sr., 6-1, 205)  
LB: W. Rainer (Sr., 6-2, 210)\* D. Taylor (Jr., 6-3, 243)  
LB: J. Duckett (So., 6-0, 215) M. Pope (So., 6-3, 230)  
CB: T. J. Williams (So., 5-9, 185) J. Lauzon (Fr., 6-3, 190)  
CB: D. Stukes (Jr., 5-11, 180)\* T. Mason (Fr., 5-11, 170)  
SS: A. Harris (Jr., 5-10, 180)\* D. Fisher (So., 6-2, 190)  
FS: A. Poindexter (Sr., 6-1, 205)\* T. Blount (So., 6-2, 269)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Greene (So., 5-11, 160) G. Owens (So., 5-11, 200)  
P: M. Abrams (So., 6-4, 215) D. Scott (Jr., 6-5, 220)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• With a 100-tackle performance, Anthony Poindexter could end his collegiate career among the ACC's top five among defensive backs.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.virginiaspports.com



AARON BROOKS-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Develop a No. 1 receiving option to replace Germane Crowell.
- Find a dependable punter and kicker.
- Settle on a linebacker and a strong safety.

Virginia entered the 1997 season as a team comprised mostly of young, untested talent. Just eight starters returned from the previous season, the fewest in the nation. Welsh and his staff were forced to use seven true freshmen at one point. But against expectations, the Cavaliers finished 7-4, extending their streak of consecutive seasons with at least seven wins to 11, an ACC record.

Surprisingly, Virginia was one of two teams from the Alliance conferences (ACC, Big East, Big 12, SEC) with at least seven wins that did not receive a bowl bid. Both Virginia and Mississippi State had 7-4 records and were denied an invite. But with 15 starters returning, Virginia should be on its way back. "Not only do we have young players with experience, but we have experienced depth," coach George Welsh said. "We had a lot of questions going into the season last year that were answered. Now, a lot of those areas have become strengths for us."

### OFFENSE

In senior Aaron Brooks, the Cavaliers return their starting quarterback for the first time since 1995. Brooks had a torrid final month of the season to finish as the ACC's leading passer. Junior Thomas Jones, the ACC's leading returning ball carrier and fourth in the league in rushing, joins Brooks in the backfield. Welsh expects junior fullback Anthony Southern to use his 240-pound frame to plow holes in the defense. Senior guard Fady Chamoun, junior guard Noel LaMontagne and fifth-year senior Robert Hunt form the nucleus of an experienced offensive line.

Junior Casey Crawford is at tight end, and despite coming off a broken ankle, gives Virginia its most dangerous receiving threat at the position since Aaron Mundy earlier in the 1990s. With the graduation of Ger-

mane Crowell, Virginia's leading receiver, the challenge is to find someone to follow in his footsteps. Welsh likes the speed and quickness of senior Terrence Wilkins so much that he uses him on kickoff and punt returns. Wilkins figures to assume an increased role in the passing game, as does sophomore Ahmad Hawkins, who broke his ankle last season and may not be 100 percent for the opener at Auburn. Neither Wilkins nor a healthy Hawkins resemble Crowell, though, which may force Welsh to make adjustments as the season progresses.

### DEFENSE

There's little room for any newcomers on the defensive front, as six of the front seven starters have logged playing time. Senior tackle Tony Dingle led the linemen with 48 tackles and garnered first-team All-ACC honors. Freshman All-America Byron Thweatt had 97 tackles from his linebacker post, and he teams with senior middleman Wali Rainer, the team's tackle leader (118). The third linebacker is a mystery. "That spot is up for grabs and could change several times during the year," Welsh said.

The Cavaliers are set at strong safety with first-team All-ACC performer Anthony Poindexter, who decided against the NFL draft. "I know that [the NFL] will be there when the time is right," Poindexter said. Virginia could use help at one of the cornerback spots, where Stephen Phelan left a sizable void.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Wilkins is the only guarantee on special teams. The Cavaliers lost their punter (Frank Rotella) and placekicker (John Allen Roberts) to graduation and will be forced to go with a pair of redshirt freshmen, most likely Mike Abrams as the punter and walk-on David Greene as the placekicker.

### RECRUITING

Of the 13 names on Virginia's list of written commitments at the end of signing day, none belonged to All-America quarterback Ronald Curry. The two-sport star had said as early as last September that he would sign with the Cavaliers, but instead signed with North Carolina so he could play two years of football and basketball before declaring himself eligible for the NBA after his sophomore year. Of the players Virginia did sign, the majority fill skill positions, including SuperPrep All-America running back Arlen Harris of Dowington, Pa.

By Bryon Evje





DESMOND CLARK-WR

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Win games on the road, as home dates include tough games with North Carolina, Virginia and Florida State.
- Keep QB Brian Kuklick (2,180 passing yard in eight games) healthy for 11 games.
- Improve on their 1997 average of 1.5 take-aways a game.

After averaging two wins a season in his first four years as coach at Wake Forest, Jim Caldwell saw the Demon Deacons go 5-6 last season and nearly win several others. Of its six losses, Wake Forest had leads in the second half in four of them. The best news of all for the Demon Deacons is this: 15 of 22 starters return, including the heart (quarterback Brian Kuklick) and soul (receiver Desmond Clark) of their passing game.

"Last year was a confidence builder for the young men in our program," Caldwell said. "Now they know the hard work is paying off in terms of wins and losses."

Wake Forest's three ACC victories equaled its number of conference wins for the previous four seasons combined. It used a combination of pyrotechnics on offense and stinginess on defense to make it all happen. Kuklick threw for 2,180 yards and earned second-team All-ACC status despite missing three games with a broken right leg. Wake Forest's rushing defense was 10th nationally, allowing just 96.1 yards a game.

The Demon Deacons might still be on an upward curve. Only nine of their 22 starters are seniors, and they were able to redshirt every member of their 1997 recruiting class.

## OFFENSE

Kuklick is healthy and ready to assault the record book in his final year at Wake Forest. With 5,334 career passing yards already, he needs another 1,971 yards to pass Mike Elkins for first place on the all-time Wake list. Clark, who has the size of a tight end at 6-3, 238 pounds, should help him get there. He led the ACC with 72 receptions and 950 yards, and with 157 catches for his career,

he, too, is in reach of a record, needing 37 more to move up to No. 1 on the ACC list. The No. 2 receiver, Jammie Deese, also is back after catching 54 passes for 697 yards.

A handful of serviceable backs return, including junior Kito Gary, whose 76-yard run was one of the longest in school history, and Morgan Kane, whose 445 yards rushing are the most of any returning back. An offensive line that returns three starters will need to avoid getting tired at the end of the game, which happened in a handful of late losses last season. "Last year we let a couple of games get away from us because I think we lost our edge in the fourth quarter," Caldwell said. "We can't let that happen again."

## DEFENSE

The Demon Deacons are pushing senior linebacker Kelvin Moses as an All-American candidate. He will have to improve on his 85 tackles last season, down from more than 100 in each of his first two collegiate seasons. Moses and Dustin Lyman (91 tackles) anchor the rush defense in the middle of the field.

Three-fourths of the front line is back, most notably tackles Kelvin Shackleford and Fred Robbins, who combined for 18 tackles for losses and eight sacks last season. The secondary also has three returning starters, but will miss the departed D'Angelo Solomon, who was a second-team all-conference cornerback. Dameron Daniel, Dalawn Parrish and Jeffrey Muires will have to improve on the 264 passing yards a game this unit allowed last season.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Demon Deacons return experience and competence, if not stars, in their kicking game. Punter Tripp Moore was third in the ACC with a 41.8-yard average, though he had two of his punts blocked. Kicker Matthew Burdick is a near lock inside 40 yards (11 of 13) but less than a 50-50 proposition from beyond the 40 (4 of 10).

## RECRUITING

Wake Forest signed 16 players, the best of the lot perhaps being running back James Scott of Concord, N.C., who broke Natrone Means' county record with 5,603 rushing yards. The best name of the bunch belongs to linebacker Ed Kargbookorogie of Houston, who signed because a high school friend of his, Broderick Hicks, signed with the Wake Forest basketball team.

By Gregg Doyel

## WAKE FOREST Facts

**Coach:** Jim Caldwell, 6th year, 14-41

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (3-5 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Groves Stadium, Winston-Salem, N.C. (31,500, grass)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (7 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** D'Angelo Solomon, DB (2nd-team All-ACC); Taris Clark, OG; Thabiti Davis, WR

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Brian Kuklick, Sr., 190-312-2,180 yards, 15 TDs, 11 INTs

**Rushing:** Morgan Kane, Jr., 109 carries, 445 yards, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Desmond Clark, Sr., 72, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Clark, 950

**Tackles:** Dustin Lyman, Jr., 91

**Sacks:** Lyman, 7

**Interceptions:** Reggie Austin, Jr., 2

**Punting:** Tripp Moore, Sr., 41.8 avg.

**Kicking:** Matthew Burdick, Jr., 15-23 FGs (long 45); 24-24 PATs

**Scoring:** Burdick, 69

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Air Force  
9/10 NAVY  
9/26 @ Clemson  
10/3 APPALACHIAN ST.  
10/10 DUKE  
10/17 @ Maryland  
10/24 N. CAROLINA  
10/31 VIRGINIA  
11/7 @ N.C. State  
11/14 FLORIDA STATE  
11/21 @ Georgia Tech

## 1997 RESULTS

N'WESTERN; W, 27-20  
@ East Carolina; L, 25-24  
GEORGIA TECH; L, 28-26  
N.C. STATE; W, 19-18  
@ Virginia; L, 21-13  
@ North Carolina; L, 30-12  
MARYLAND; W, 35-17  
@ Duke; W, 38-24  
CLEMSON; L, 33-16  
@ Rutgers; W, 28-14  
@ Florida State; L, 58-7

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Kuklick (Sr., 6-3, 198)*	B. Sankey (Jr., 6-2, 208)
RB: M. Kane (Jr., 6-1, 216)*	K. Gary (Sr., 6-1, 197)
FB: W. Shaw (Sr., 6-1, 234)	C. McCoy (So., 5-7, 211)
WR: D. Clark (Sr., 6-3, 238)*	W. Merritt (Sr., 6-0, 193)
WR: J. Deese (Jr., 6-0, 172)*	B. Perry (Sr., 6-1, 195)
TE: J. Zelenka (Sr., 6-5, 266)*	J. Lik (Jr., 6-6, 229)
LT: J. Flowe (Sr., 6-6, 297)*	T. Hollowell (Jr., 6-7, 330)
LG: S. Settar (Jr., 6-4, 300)	B. Walls (Jr., 6-4, 275)
C: M. Curtis (So., 6-3, 271)	W. Spires (Sr., 6-4, 273)
RG: B. Wolverton (Jr., 6-5, 298)*	C. Blank (Jr., 6-5, 272)
RT: W. Lam (Jr., 6-4, 261)	T. Hollowell (Jr., 6-7, 330)

### DEFENSE

DE: C. Wilburn (Jr., 6-4, 267)	C. Wilburn (Jr., 6-4, 270)
DT: F. Robbins (Jr., 6-5, 312)*	D. Mellerson (Jr., 6-5, 298)
DT: K. Shackleford (Jr., 6-1, 277)*	D. Mellerson (Jr., 6-5, 298)
DE: K. Jones (Jr., 6-1, 279)*	B. Ray (So., 6-3, 236)
LB: M. Makovec (Sr., 6-1, 212)	B. Ray (So., 6-3, 236)
LB: K. Moses (Sr., 6-2, 220)*	A. Guice (Jr., 6-3, 198)
LB: D. Lyman (Jr., 6-4, 241)*	J. Mannon (Sr., 6-2, 229)
CB: K. Smith (So., 5-10, 178)	A. Duncan (Fr., 6-1, 183)
CB: D. Daniel (Sr., 5-9, 181)*	R. Austin (Jr., 5-11, 173)
SS: D. Parrish (Jr., 5-11, 200)*	D. Moore (Jr., 6-2, 195)
FS: J. Muires (Sr., 6-2, 183)*	T. Carpenter (Fr., 6-3, 196)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: T. Moore (Sr., 6-2, 215)*	T. Ashe (Fr., 5-11, 178)
P: M. Burdick (Jr., 6-0, 169)*	T. Ashe (Fr., 5-11, 178)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Desmond Clark's 72 catches set a school record and were the sixth-best ever in the ACC.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

[www.wfu.edu/sports](http://www.wfu.edu/sports)



**PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Amos Zereoue, W. Virginia

**PREDICTED STANDINGS**

1. West Virginia
2. Syracuse
3. Virginia Tech
4. Miami (Fla.)
5. Boston College
6. Pittsburgh
7. Rutgers
8. Temple

**PLAYERS TO WATCH****Offensive****Player of the Year**Amos Zereoue,  
West Virginia**Defensive****Player of the Year**Gary Stills,  
West Virginia**Newcomer**Brandon Williams,  
Pittsburgh**3 BIGGEST GAMES**► **Oct. 31**West Virginia @  
Virginia Tech► **Nov. 7**

Syracuse @ West Virginia

► **Nov. 28**

Miami (Fla.) @ Syracuse

# Big East

## All-Big East Team

**[OFFENSE]**

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: Donovan McNabb	6-2/221	Sr.	Syracuse
RB: Amos Zereoue	5-10/200	Jr.	West Virginia
RB: Rob Konrad	6-3/255	Sr.	Syracuse
WR: Reggie Wayne	6-2/190	So.	Miami (Fla.)
WR: Shawn Foreman	6-1/205	Sr.	West Virginia
TE: Daniel Franks	6-6/240	So.	Miami (Fla.)
OL: Doug Brzezinski	6-4/309	Sr.	Boston College
OL: Damien Woody	6-4/312	Jr.	Boston College
OL: Solomon Page	6-6/300	Jr.	West Virginia
OL: Eric de Groh	6-5/290	Sr.	West Virginia
OL: Dwight Vick	6-4/323	Sr.	Virginia Tech
PK: Shayne Graham	6-0/197	Jr.	Virginia Tech

**[DEFENSE]**

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL: Chris Hovan	6-5/285	Jr.	Boston College
DL: John Thorton	6-3/300	Sr.	West Virginia
DL: J. Engelberger	6-4/262	Jr.	Virginia Tech
DL: Damione Lewis	6-2/275	So.	Miami (Fla.)
LB: Gary Stills	6-2/244	Sr.	West Virginia
LB: Phil Clarke	6-0/220	Sr.	Pittsburgh
LB: Jamal Smith	6-1/225	Jr.	Virginia Tech
DB: Pedro Cirino	5-11/191	Jr.	Boston College
DB: Nate Terry	6-3/175	Sr.	West Virginia
DB: Pierson Prioleau	5-10/191	Sr.	Virginia Tech
DB: George White	6-1/200	Jr.	Boston College
P: Jimmy Kibble	5-10/179	Jr.	Virginia Tech

► Syracuse's Kyle McIntosh is the lead back in one of the nation's deepest and most talented backfields.





MIKE CLOUD-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Improve offense in the red zone.
- Run defense must be stingier (200.1 ypg in '97).
- Rotoed offensive line must gel quickly.

A simple meeting last February served as a sobering reminder to Boston College coach Tom O'Brien of just how much turmoil his upperclassmen have endured during their years at the Heights. "We held a meeting to announce that all of our coaches were coming back, and everybody stood up and gave us a standing ovation," said O'Brien. "That's because the seniors on defense have been through numerous coordinators during their careers. Same with the quarterbacks."

"We finally have some continuity here. The coaches have a better handle on the personnel, and the players know what to expect from the coaches because all the same guys are back two years in a row."

Now the trick is to translate that continuity into a few more "W's" and standing ovations in 1998. O'Brien is realistically optimistic. "We're better off than we were this time last year," he said.

## OFFENSE

Fifth-year senior quarterback Scott Mutryn first waited behind Mark Hartsell and then Matt Hasselbeck. While one Hasselbeck is gone, Mutryn must battle another one—Matt's younger brother, Tim—for the starting job. Mutryn figures to have the inside track because he's the only BC quarterback to have thrown more than one college pass.

Whoever wins the quarterback job will work behind a rebuilt line, led by a pair of returning All-Big East types in left guard Doug Brzezinski and center Damien Woody. While those two are givens, O'Brien will rely on an inordinate number of unproven redshirt freshmen and sophomores to either start or provide quality depth upfront. "The offensive line and tight end are two huge areas of concern for us," said O'Brien. "But given the choice, I'd rather have a great running back

and a learning offensive line rather than the other way around."

O'Brien gets his wish. He has one of the Big East's best tailbacks in Mike Cloud (886 yards), who has been on quite a rollercoaster ride at BC. Cloud was recruited by Tom Coughlin, banished to the bench by Dan Henning and then rediscovered by O'Brien. The starting receiving corps will be completely senior-laden—but only if BC's top receiver in 1997, Dennis Harding, rejoins the team after being held out of spring practice because his academic house wasn't in order.

## DEFENSE

If spring practice is any indication, O'Brien's troops have responded to his call to play a more physical brand of football; however, speed and depth are still serious problems.

Nose tackle Chris Hovan (four sacks) and defensive tackle Mike Willets (five sacks) are the leaders upfront. The linebacking corps features an up-and-comer in Brooke Heald and an old, familiar face in Brian Maye. A former walk-on, Heald sat out 1996 and then came back to earn a scholarship last season. He was fourth on the team in tackles (71). It's still unclear whether Maye, who was granted a sixth season of eligibility by the NCAA, can regain his one-time All-Big East form after undergoing successful neck surgery.

The secondary is paced by veteran safeties Pedro Cirino (team-high 130 tackles in '97) and George White (91 tackles). However, the cornerback position is unsettled. Pencil in sophomore D.J. Sutton and redshirt freshman Jonathan Ordway as the starters, for now.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

John Matich was plagued by injuries last season and it affected his accuracy (10 of 16 FGs). Jason Malecki, an excellent pooch punter, averaged 41.0 yards per boot last season. Cirino and redshirt freshman receiver Dedrick DeWalt will return punts, and backup wideout Jermaine Walker handles kickoffs.

## RECRUITING

O'Brien landed eight of his 11 targeted local recruits. The most decorated of the home-grown signees is 6-4 quarterback Brian St. Pierre, who chose the Eagles over Notre Dame and Syracuse. "Signing eight local products is a very positive sign for us. It shows that folks in the Boston area have put the gambling scandal and other related problems behind them and that they believe in BC football again," said O'Brien.

By Bill Doherty

## BOSTON COLLEGE Facts

**Coach:** Tom O'Brien, 2nd year, 4-7

**'97 Record:** 4-7 (3-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Alumni Stadium, Chestnut Hill, Mass. (44,500; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (6 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Todd Pollack, TE (1st-team All-Big East); Erik Storz, LB (1st-team All-Big East); Matt Hasselbeck, QB; Omari Walker, RB; Markell Blount, LB; Shalom Tolefree, DB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Scott Mutryn, Sr., 22-35-202 yards, 1 TD, 3 INTs

**Rushing:** Mike Cloud, Sr., 136 carries, 886 yards, 8 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Dennis Harding, Sr., 29, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Harding, 432

**Tackles:** Pedro Cirino, Jr., 130

**Sacks:** Mike Willets, Jr., 5

**Interceptions:** Cirino and Brooke Heald, Jr., 2

**Punting:** Jason Malecki, Sr., 41.0 avg.

**Kicking:** John Matich, Jr., 10-16 FGs (long 40), 22-23 PATs

**Scoring:** Cloud, 54 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Georgia Tech  
9/12 RUTGERS  
9/19 TEMPLE  
9/26 @ Louisville  
10/3 VIRGINIA TECH  
10/17 SYRACUSE  
10/24 NAVY  
10/31 @ Miami (Fla.)  
11/7 NOTRE DAME  
11/14 @ Pittsburgh  
11/21 @ West Virginia

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Temple; L, 28-21  
WEST VIRGINIA; W, 31-24  
@ Rutgers; W, 35-21  
CINCINNATI; L, 45-44  
GEORGIA TECH; L, 42-14  
@ Virginia Tech; L, 17-7  
MIAMI (FLA.); L, 45-44  
@ Notre Dame; L, 52-20  
PITTSBURGH; W, 22-21  
@ Syracuse; L, 20-13  
ARMY; W, 24-20

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: S. Mutryn (Sr., 6-3, 212) T. Hasselbeck (So., 6-2, 211)  
RB: M. Cloud (Sr., 5-11, 201)\* Q. Lee (Jr., 5-10, 195)  
FB: G. Bartlett (Sr., 6-0, 214) R. Utzler (Fr., 6-2, 228)  
WR: D. Harding (Sr., 6-1, 178)\* S. Dapra (So., 5-11, 171)  
WR: A. DiCosmo (Sr., 6-3, 209)\* D. Crittenden (Jr., 5-9, 183)  
TE: R. Tardio (Sr., 6-5, 245) R. Ellis (So., 6-4, 252)  
LT: M. Cook (So., 6-5, 300) J. Richardson (Fr., 6-3, 271)  
LG: D. Brzezinski (Sr., 6-4, 309)\* M. Knapp (Fr., 6-5, 308)  
C: D. Woody (Jr., 6-4, 312)\* B. Palaza (Jr., 6-4, 287)\*  
RG: D. Collins (Sr., 6-5, 287) P. LaQuerre (So., 6-3, 305)  
RT: P. Zukauskas (So., 6-5, 306) M. Columbo (Fr., 6-8, 289)

### DEFENSE

DT: M. Willets (Jr., 6-4, 279)\* A. Krausz (Sr., 6-3, 256)\*  
NG: C. Hovan (Jr., 6-5, 285)\* K. Crane (Fr., 6-4, 257)  
DT: A. Grace (So., 6-3, 266) S. Guthrie (Fr., 6-4, 241)  
LB: B. Heald (Jr., 6-3, 231)\* M. Guazzo (Jr., 6-3, 230)  
LB: B. Maye (Sr., 6-3, 227)\* N. Blevins (Fr., 6-2, 216)  
LB: F. Chamberlain (Jr., 6-0, 239) R. Burch (So., 6-3, 246)  
LB: A. Newman (Jr., 6-5, 236) J. Mickens (Jr., 6-0, 207)  
CB: D.J. Sutton (So., 5-8, 159) P. Phelts (Jr., 5-10, 189)  
CB: J. Ordway (Fr., 5-10, 176) J. Smith (So., 6-2, 193)  
SS: G. White (Jr., 6-1, 200)\* T. Davis (Jr., 5-9, 181)  
FS: P. Cirino (Jr., 5-11, 191)\* R. Johnson (So., 5-10, 187)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Matich (Sr., 5-11, 201)\* M. Sutphin (So., 6-3, 202)  
P: J. Malecki (Sr., 6-2, 220)\* T. Van Ness (So., 5-10, 193)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Boston College was third in the Big East in total offense (400.9 ypg) last season.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

[http://infoeagle.bc.edu/bc\\_org/ath](http://infoeagle.bc.edu/bc_org/ath)



## MIAMI Facts

**Coach:** Butch Davis, 4th year, 22-12

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (3-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Orange Bowl, Miami, Fla. (74,476; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (6 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Duane Starks, CB (1st-team All-Big East); Kerlin Blaise, OT (2nd-team All-Big East); Ryan Clement, QB; Denny Fortney, DL; Mike Wehner, C; Carlos Callesas, OG; Carlo Joseph, FB; Eugene Ridgley, FS

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Scott Covington, Sr., 27-60-318 yards, 1 INT

**Rushing:** Edgerrin James, Jr., 184 carries, 1,098 yards, 13 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Reggie Wayne, So., 48, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Wayne, 640

**Tackles:** Dan Morgan, So., 105

**Sacks:** Damione Lewis, So., Derrick Ham, Sr. and Quincy Hipps, So., 4

**Interceptions:** Leonard Myers, So., 2

**Punting:** Andy Crosland, Jr., 39.6 avg.

**Kicking:** Crosland, 11-14 FGs (long 50), 28-31 PATs

**Scoring:** James, 86 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 E. TENNESSEE ST.  
9/12 @ Cincinnati  
9/19 VIRGINIA TECH  
9/26 UCLA  
10/3 @ Rutgers  
10/10 FLORIDA STATE  
10/24 @ West Virginia  
10/31 BOSTON COLL.  
11/4 @ Temple  
11/19 PITTSBURGH  
11/28 @ Syracuse

### 1997 RESULTS

@ Baylor; W, 45-14  
ARIZONA STATE; L, 23-12  
@ Pittsburgh; L, 21-17  
WEST VIRGINIA; L, 26-17  
@ Florida State; L, 47-0  
@ Boston College; W, 45-44  
TEMPLE; W, 47-15  
ARKANSAS ST.; W, 42-10  
@ Virginia Tech; L, 27-25  
RUTGERS; W, 51-23  
SYRACUSE; L, 33-13

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: S. Covington (Sr., 6-2, 215) S. Kelly (So., 6-3, 205)  
RB: E. James (Jr., 6-1, 220)\* J. Jackson (So., 5-11, 215)  
FB: D. McMillan (Jr., 5-9, 220) N. Williams (Jr., 6-2, 269)  
WR: R. Wayne (So., 6-2, 190)\* A. King (So., 6-0, 185)  
WR: D. Jones (So., 5-10, 180)\* S. Moss (So., 5-11, 178)  
TE: D. Franks (So., 6-6, 240)\* M. Fulcher (Jr., 6-3, 245)  
LT: R. Sampson (So., 6-3, 284)\* G. Laffey (Jr., 6-5, 295)  
LG: R. Mercier (Jr., 6-2, 285) D. Neely (Jr., 6-3, 300)  
C: T. Wise (Jr., 6-2, 275)\* S. Puckett (Fr., 6-3, 255)  
RG: E. Schnupp (Jr., 6-4, 285) B. Bomberg (Fr., 6-3, 275)  
RT: R. Hall (Jr., 6-3, 282) J. Gonzalez (Fr., 6-5, 275)

### DEFENSE

DE: D. Ham (Sr., 6-5, 250)\* B. Stinson (So., 6-4, 235)  
DT: D. Lewis (So., 6-2, 275)\* A. Wilson (So., 6-3, 318)  
DT: M. Lawson (Sr., 6-2, 275) C. Pegues (Sr., 6-1, 278)\*  
DE: M. Sweeney (Jr., 6-3, 270) Q. Hipps (So., 6-4, 255)  
LB: D. Morgan (So., 6-2, 210)\* T. Bonner (Jr., 6-0, 205)  
LB: N. Webster (So., 6-0, 215) R. Mack (Jr., 6-1, 225)\*  
LB: M. Smith (So., 6-3, 203)\* J. Rhodes (So., 6-2, 220)  
CB: N. Brooks (Jr., 5-10, 170)\* M. Fitzgerald (Fr., 5-11, 180)  
CB: N. Ward (Jr., 5-10, 179) L. Myers (So., 6-0, 175)  
SS: A. Blades (So., 6-2, 190) J. Popovich (Jr., 5-11, 179)  
FS: D. Brown (So., 6-0, 195) E. Reed (Fr., 6-0, 175)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: A. Crosland\* (Jr., 6-1, 205)\* T. Sievers (Fr., 6-3, 200)  
P: A. Crosland\* (Jr., 6-1, 205)\* T. Sievers (Fr., 6-3, 200)  
\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• With an impressive 147-30 mark, Miami is second only to Nebraska (153 victories) in number of wins since 1983.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.gehon.ir.miami.edu/canes



# Miami (Fla.)



REGGIE WAYNE-WR

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- QB Scott Covington must be "the man".
- The Canes have to do a better job of slowing down opposing runners.
- Establish a consistent group of offensive linemen.

What's wrong with this picture? A 5-6 record. A defensive unit that ranked 100th out of 112 I-A schools against the run. A tie with BC and Temple (yes, Temple) for fifth place in the Big East and, perhaps most painful of all, no bowl appearance in 1997.

"It was a trying year, to be sure," said Miami (Fla.) coach Butch Davis. "But it's over. And I feel that for the first time since I've been here that the program is breathing fresh air. By that, I mean, there is no impending doom on the horizon... no major NCAA investigation, no more scholarship reductions, no real problems."

Unless you're a Miami opponent over the next couple of seasons. "The kids are determined to help bring this program back to where it once was," Davis said. To accomplish that in '98, they'll have to do it playing a schedule that includes seven teams that went bowling last season.

### OFFENSE

Scott Covington finally gets to put on a helmet instead of a baseball cap after the final notes of the "National Anthem" are sung. Although Covington rode the pine the past three seasons behind Ryan Clement, Davis is confident in his new quarterback. "Scott's absolutely obsessed with playing well in practice," Davis said, "... [that] makes me confident that he's going to have a fine senior year."

Making Covington's transition smoother is the presence of two young skill players who will eventually play on Sundays: flanker Reggie Wayne and tailback Edgerrin James. Wayne, the 1997 Big East Rookie of the Year, broke Michael Irvin's freshman reception record at Miami by corralling 48 passes. James gained 1,098 yards, had 13 rushing TDs, and was a first-team All-Big East selection.

Dyral McMillan, a converted tailback who missed most of last season with a broken collarbone, will start at fullback. Joining Wayne at wideout will be fellow sophomores Santana Moss (the fastest player on Miami's roster), Daryl Jones, and Andre King as well as senior Omar Rolle.

Davis' No. 1 concern is developing quality depth upfront. However, the line should be OK if starting right guard Richard Mercier (major reconstructive knee surgery last September), the team's best lineman, is healthy enough to join returning starters Robert Sampson and Ty Wise.

### DEFENSE

Young and unable to stop the run best describes last year's defensive front—but it is a new season. "The one part of the team that has made the most dramatic improvement is our defensive line," Davis said. The forward wall returns three starters, including strong-as-an-ox tackle Damione Lewis.

The linebacking corps features last year's biggest surprise, outside linebacker Dan Morgan. Projected as a running back, Morgan moved over to defense and finished as the team's leading tackler (101 stops). He'll be joined at linebacker by steady junior Michael Smith and either Nate Webster or Rod Mack in the middle. Webster, everybody's prep All-American, was slowed last season by a torn bicep, but he's healed.

The secondary should be solid, even with the loss of three starters to graduation. But in Al Blades (Brian's younger brother), Nick Ward, Leonard Myers, Delvin Brown and Nate Brown, Davis has more than enough speedy ballhawks to choose from to form his last line of defense.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Andy Crosland handled the punting and the kicking chores last season, but he could see his job description downsized somewhat by freshman Todd Sievers, who was the lone amateur selected to the 1998 All-Madden Team. The reason? Sievers broke the national high school record by hitting a 63-yard field goal and made several over-50 yarders.

### RECRUITING

Davis has landed one of the nation's best group of linebackers, led by a pair of Sunshine State talents in Sheven Marshall (6-2, 225) and Lavaar Scott (6-2, 225), as well as Chris Campbell (6-2, 215) of Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Campbell ran a 10.5 in the 100 meters at a high school track meet last spring.

By Bill Doherty





# Pittsburgh



TERRY MURPHY-WR

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find an adequate replacement for QB Pete Gonzalez.
- The rebuilt offensive line must gel quickly.
- Build on the momentum of last year's season-ending success.

At the time, the idea seemed preposterous. If Pittsburgh could defeat Syracuse, Virginia Tech and West Virginia in its last three regular-season games, the Panthers would earn at least a share of the 1997 Big East title.

Mission Impossible?

Mission nearly accomplished. Only a last-minute Syracuse touchdown drive in the snow kept Walt Harris' Panthers from pulling off the unthinkable hat trick. After the 32-27 loss to the Orange, the Panthers upset the first-place Hokies and then scored a wild three-overtime win over the Mountaineers in Morgantown. Pittsburgh's reward was a berth in the Liberty Bowl—its first bowl appearance since 1989—and the school's first winning record since 1991.

"To come back against a team [Syracuse] that beat us bad the year before [55-7] and ended up winning our league gave us a tremendous amount of confidence," said Harris, the Big East Coach of the Year who resurrected a Panthers squad that went 12-32 in the four years prior to his arrival. "It gave the players a strong belief in what the coaches were doing, and we grew together."

It was quite a first-year coaching job by Harris, but nothing like the one that confronts him in 1998. Pitt loses 18 seniors, 11 of whom started, and the rebuilding starts right now. "We lose so many football players who ... left us with a legacy," Harris said, "and it's going to be a challenge to live up to it being as young as we are."

## OFFENSE

Harris' biggest rebuilding job will be on offense, where he returns just five starters. The top priority: Find a replacement for one-year wonder Pete Gonzalez, who miraculously transformed himself into Dan Marino as a senior and threw for a Big East-record 31 touch-

downs. "Pete had such an extraordinary year, considering he had started only a few games before then," Harris said. "For anyone to come in and play as well as he did, they'll have to step it up a ton."

The leading candidate to replace Gonzalez is senior Matt Lytle, who started in 1996 but threw just 13 passes last season. "He's got a very strong arm, but sometimes he has a tendency to throw it harder than our guys can catch it," Harris said.

One guy who has little trouble catching the ball when it's thrown his way is senior Terry Murphy, who led the Big East with 79.4 receiving yards per game last season. He also caught 13 touchdown passes. Murphy, however, was one of only two scholarship receivers on the field during spring practice.

## DEFENSE

With six starters returning, including leading tackler Phillip Clarke (124 tackles, 10 for a loss) and top sack man Marlin Young (6 sacks), the defense is definitely ahead of the offense heading into the fall.

Young teams with junior Julian Graham (66 tackles, 7 for a loss) to give the Panthers a strong set of bookends. Big things are also expected this year from junior defensive tackle Demond Gibson, a prized recruit for the Panthers several years ago from Penn Hills High in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh switched to an attacking scheme and eight-man front under new defensive coordinator Larry Coyer and made some progress. After yielding 430 points and 457.5 yards per game in 1996, the Panthers pared those numbers to 354 points and 414 ypg last season.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Harris will also be looking for a new punter in '98 after Grant Coffield quit the team in February. Two JUCO transfers, Kevin Bever and Greg DeBolt, will vie for the job. Senior Chris Ferencik returns to handle the place-kicking duties.

## RECRUITING

In the tradition of Tony Dorsett and Curtis Martin comes Brandon Williams, an All-State selection from nearby Arnold, Pa. Williams chose the Panthers over Penn State, Notre Dame, Syracuse and UCLA and is the big reason why many recruiting analysts ranked Harris' 29-man class the best in the Big East. Williams, who averaged 10.2 yards per carry in high school, could be starting come this fall.

By Dave Allen

## PITTSBURGH Facts

**Coach:** Walt Harris, 2nd year, 6-6; 17-30 overall

**'97 Record:** 6-6 (4-3 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Pitt Stadium, Pittsburgh, Pa. (56,500; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 12 (5 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Tony Orlandini, OL (1st-team All-Big East); Pete Gonzalez, QB (2nd-team All-Big East); Jon Marzoch, OL (2nd-team All-Big East); Dwayne Schulters, RB (2nd-team All-Big East); Frank Moore, DL (2nd-team All-Big East)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Matt Lytle, Sr., 5-13-98 yards, 1 TD

**Rushing:** Kevan Barlow, So., 27 carries, 120 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Terry Murphy, Sr., 46 catches, 13 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Murphy, 873

**Tackles:** Phil Clarke, Sr., 124

**Sacks:** Marlin Young, Sr., 6

**Interceptions:** Tray Crayton, Sr., 3

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Chris Ferencik, Sr., 6-8 FGs (long 38), 32-38 PATs

**Scoring:** Murphy, 78 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 VILLANOVA  
9/19 PENN STATE  
9/26 @ Virginia Tech  
10/3 AKRON  
10/10 @ North Carolina  
10/17 RUTGERS  
10/31 @ Syracuse  
11/7 TEMPLE  
11/14 BOSTON COLL.  
11/19 @ Miami (Fla.)  
11/27 WEST VIRGINIA

## 1997 RESULTS

SW LOUISIANA; W, 45-13  
@ Penn State; L, 34-17  
@ Houston; W, 35-24  
MIAMI (FLA.); W, 21-17  
@ Temple; L, 17-13  
NOTRE DAME; L, 45-21  
@ Rutgers; W, 55-48  
@ Boston College; L, 22-21  
SYRACUSE; L, 32-27  
VIRGINIA TECH; W, 30-23  
@ West Virginia; W, 41-38  
vs. Southern Miss; L, 41-7\*

\*Liberty Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: M. Lytle (Sr., 6-4, 225) T. Zimmerman (So., 6-3, 210)  
RB: K. Barlow (So., 6-1, 220) B. Williams (Fr., 6-0, 205)  
FB: T. Thompson (So., 5-11, 220)\* C. Feola (Jr., 6-1, 220)  
WR: T. Murphy (Sr., 6-0, 175)\* J. Womack (Jr., 5-11, 185)  
WR: L. Grim (Jr., 5-11, 180) J. Dixon (Jr., 5-10, 175)  
TE: J. Williams (Sr., 6-1, 240)\* T. Robertson (So., 6-4, 240)  
LT: M. Browne (Jr., 6-5, 290) J. Dugger (Jr., 6-4, 280)  
LG: M. Bosnic (Fr., 6-6, 270) D. Cornelius (Jr., 6-4, 298)  
C: A. Grischow (Sr., 6-3, 270)\* J. Wade (Jr., 6-4, 305)  
RG: E. Weidle (Jr., 6-6, 280)\* B. Kopp (Jr., 6-4, 280)  
RT: R. Hansen (Jr., 6-6, 295) J. Dugger (Jr., 6-4, 280)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Graham (Jr., 6-3, 230)\* P. Simonian (Jr., 6-2, 250)  
DT: D. Gibson (Jr., 6-4, 285) K. Pegram (Sr., 6-2, 265)  
DT: J. McCurley (So., 6-4, 250)\* J. Conlin (Fr., 6-5, 220)  
DE: M. Young (Sr., 6-2, 240)\* M. White (So., 6-3, 285)  
LB: K. Thompson (Jr., 5-11, 200) B. Knight (Fr., 6-2, 220)  
LB: P. Clarke (Sr., 6-0, 220)\* B. Jacobs (So., 6-2, 220)  
LB: N. Cole (Fr., 6-2, 220) K. Kashubara (Jr., 6-4, 225)  
CB: T. Crayton (Sr., 6-2, 180)\* C. Allen (Jr., 5-10, 165)  
CB: H. Poteat (Jr., 5-11, 190) C. Brown (Sr., 5-11, 175)\*  
SS: S. Hornack (Jr., 5-10, 190) M. Ponko (Fr., 5-10, 190)  
FS: D. J. Dinkins (Jr., 6-4, 225) L. Lightner (Fr., 6-2, 195)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: C. Ferencik (Sr., 5-11, 180)\* P. Ruzila (So., 5-10, 175)  
P: G. DeBolt (Jr., 5-11, 180) K. Bever (Sr., 5-10, 185)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Terry Murphy needs 12 TD receptions this year to become Pittsburgh's all-time leader in career touchdown catches, surpassing Julius Dawkins and Dietrich Jells, who had 24 each.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.edu.pitt/~sports



## RUTGERS Facts

**Coach:** Terry Shea, 3rd year, 2-20; 17-26-2 overall  
**'97 Record:** 0-11 (0-7 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Rutgers Stadium, Piscataway, N.J.  
 (41,500; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (8 off., 5 def.)

**Key Players Lost:** Brian Sheridan, LB (2nd-team All-Big East); Jared Slovan, P (2nd-team All-Big East); Jack McKiernan, C; Charles Woolridge, DT; Reggie Funderburk, WR

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Mike McMahon, So., 104-212-1,259 yards, 6 TDs, 12 INTs

**Rushing:** Jacki Crooks, Jr., 174 carries, 758 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Andy Holland, Sr., 28

**Receiving (Yards):** Walter King, Jr., 432

**Tackles:** Aaron Brady, Sr., 81.5

**Sacks:** Brady, 3

**Interceptions:** Gil Ross, Sr., and Brady, 2

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Lee McDonald, Sr., 2-5 FGs (long 32), 8-10 PATs

**Scoring:** Crooks, 26 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 RICHMOND  
 9/12 @ Boston College  
 9/19 @ Syracuse  
 9/26 ARMY  
 10/3 MIAMI (FLA.)  
 10/17 @ Pittsburgh  
 10/24 TULANE  
 10/31 TEMPLE  
 11/7 @ Navy  
 11/14 WEST VIRGINIA  
 11/21 @ Virginia Tech

### 1997 RESULTS

VIRGINIA TECH; L, 59-19  
 @ Texas; L, 48-14  
 @ Navy; L, 36-7  
 BOSTON COLL.; L, 35-21  
 @ West Virginia; L, 48-0  
 SYRACUSE; L, 50-3  
 @ Army; L, 37-35  
 PITTSBURGH; L, 55-48  
 @ Temple; L, 49-7  
 WAKE FOREST; L, 28-14  
 @ Miami (Fla.); L, 51-23

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: M. McMahon (So., 6-3, 205)\* B. Edmonds (Sr., 6-2, 210)  
 RB: J. Crooks (Jr., 5-11, 195)\* K. Sinclair (So., 5-9, 200)  
 FB: G. Fautleroy (Sr., 6-0, 245) J. Robinson (Sr., 6-1, 210)  
 WR: A. Holland (Sr., 6-3, 215)\* D. Fletcher (So., 6-2, 195)  
 WR: W. King (Jr., 6-2, 190) B. Powell (Sr., 6-3, 190)  
 TE: C. Hutton (Sr., 6-5, 215)\* B. Woodard (So., 6-7, 250)  
 LT: S. O'Hara (Sr., 6-3, 280)\* I. Puaauli (Jr., 6-4, 290)  
 LG: P. Donnelly (Sr., 6-3, 310)\* R. Smith (Jr., 6-4, 270)  
 C: M. DeLucia (Jr., 6-3, 270) S. O'Hara (Sr., 6-3, 280)  
 RG: B. French (Sr., 6-4, 305)\* R. Mazza (So., 6-5, 275)  
 RT: R. Comeau (Sr., 6-4, 295)\* T. Baker (Jr., 6-5, 310)

#### DEFENSE

DE: R. Crawford (Jr., 6-2, 220) J. Bloom (So., 6-4, 235)  
 DT: K. Mayall (Jr., 6-5, 275) M. Belh (Sr., 6-2, 250)  
 DT: J. Ross (So., 6-5, 250) C. Hunt (Sr., 6-2, 280)  
 DE: W. Hampton (Jr., 6-4, 255)\* A. George-Shields (Sr., 6-4, 250)  
 LB: G. Ross (Sr., 6-0, 195)\* D. Strohmeier (Sr., 6-3, 215)  
 LB: A. Brady (Sr., 5-11, 220)\* T. Pitts (Sr., 6-2, 235)  
 LB: J. Moore (Jr., 6-2, 215) M. Pridgeon (Jr., 6-1, 210)  
 CB: R. Jefferson (So., 5-11, 180)\* P. Clarke (Sr., 5-9, 185)  
 CB: G. Shea (Jr., 5-10, 180) D. Griffin (Sr., 5-10, 180)  
 SS: T. Freeney (So., 6-2, 195)\* B. Martin (So., 6-0, 190)  
 FS: D. Siciliano (So., 6-1, 195) L.J. Smith (Fr., 6-4, 210)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: L. McDonald (Sr., 6-0, 190) S. Barone (Fr., 5-10, 170)  
 P: M. Barr (Fr., 6-2, 215) C. Titus (Jr., 6-8, 210)

\*Denotes returning starter

#### MILESTONE

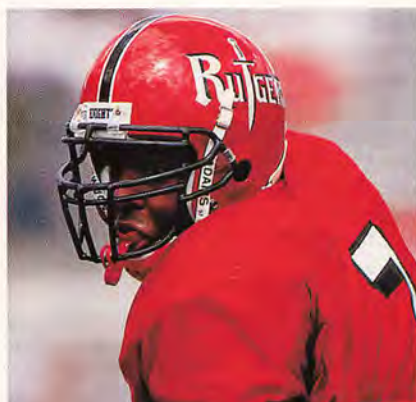
• The Mike McMahon watch is on. The sophomore QB needs only to throw for 5,930 more yards to surpass Scott Erney as the school's all-time lead-in passer.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.rutgers.edu/athletics



# Rutgers



JACKI CROOKS-RB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Win Game 1 and kill any 0-11 talk.
- Keep QB Mike McMahon on the battlefield.
- Some "Thunder and Lightning" from Shea's crop of running backs.

This past spring, Rutgers coach Terry Shea made a promise to his players: No more mention of "0-11." The school's worst season in its 128-year history is far from a distant memory for Shea. But his players are doing their best to forget.

"To some degree, the players have been much more resilient than their coach," said Shea, 15-6-2 in two seasons at San Jose State (1990-'91) but just 2-20 in two seasons at Rutgers. "It just eats you up inside as a head coach. But you can't show that to your players. You have to push forward."

There is reason to believe that 1998 will be a much better year for Shea and his troops. For starters, the Scarlet Knights open the season with Division I-AA Richmond, almost guaranteeing an end to their school-record tying 14-game losing streak. There are also very winnable home dates with Army and Temple. In addition, Shea has more bodies to coach in '98. Last season, 57 players took the practice field for spring drills. This year, the number was up to 74, including 17 seniors. An outstanding sophomore class led by quarter-back Mike McMahon, cornerback Riley Jefferson and strong safety Tarrell Freeney also returns. "I believe there is hope for the future," Shea said. "The younger players are not buying into what they were last year."

### OFFENSE

Much of Shea's optimism begins with the right arm of McMahon, who came on strong once he stepped into a starting role. After his first four appearances, McMahon had completed just 15 of 46 passes (33 percent) and thrown three interceptions. But starting with the Army game, McMahon became a totally different player, going on to complete 53 percent of his passes in five starts. By season's end, he was the nation's top passer (1,259 yards) among true freshman quarterbacks.

"For the first time since I've been here, I understand who my quarterback is and how he functions," Shea said. "Our offense has a chance to be real good, but there's got to be more cavalry men coming over the hill in August to help us out."

Shea hopes one of those players is sophomore running back Kevin Sinclair, considered one of the jewels of the talented 1997 recruiting class. Sinclair, a "partial qualifier" last year, should challenge incumbent starter Jacki Crooks at tailback. Whoever emerges will run behind an experienced line that returns four senior starters, but depth will be a problem here.

### DEFENSE

After allowing 496 points and 5,274 yards, it was clear to Shea that drastic changes were needed on defense. "Our defense just wasn't fast enough to compete on the Division I level," Shea said.

Enter Dennis Creehan, who was brought in to rev up the defense. Creehan, with previous stints as linebacker coach at Cal and defensive coordinator at

Arkansas State, quickly scrapped Rutgers eight-man front for a more traditional 4-3 look with multiple formations. In other words, Creehan will find a way to get the program's fastest players on the field. Junior Wayne Hampton, the team's best pass rusher, will be at the heart of the attacking scheme, lining up at defensive end and occasionally at linebacker. Aaron Brady also returns at inside linebacker after registering 192 tackles the past two seasons. Freeney, Jefferson and Dante Siciliano, another sophomore, form the nucleus of what should be one of the league's best secondaries for several years to come.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

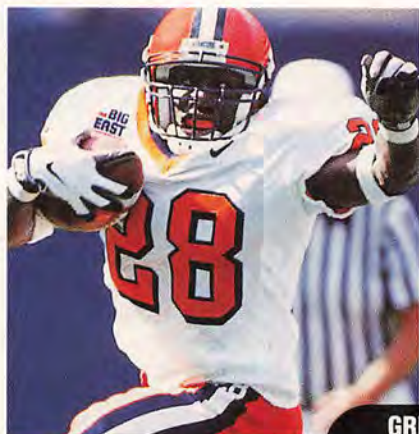
The punting and kicking positions are wide open. Shea is high on freshman kicker Steven Barone, whom he has already nicknamed "Thunderfoot." Barone owns both the Florida and North Carolina prep records with field goals of 58 and 54 yards, respectively.

### RECRUITING

Shea's 1998 class didn't receive the same high marks as the '97 class, generally regarded as the school's best ever, but several players could contribute right away. Heading this group is linebacker Jabari Moore, a JUCO transfer. Moore was recently timed at 4.49 in the 40-yard dash and should fit right into Creehan's fast-paced defense. Offensive lineman Mike Esposito and defensive tackles Antwon Gary and Ketwan Graham could also surface this fall.

By Dave Allen





KYLE MCINTOSH-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find replacements for seven defensive starters.
- Keep fullback Rob Konrad healthy for 11 games.
- Find a way to beat either Tennessee or Michigan.

There's no truth to the rumor in Central New York that Syracuse petitioned the NCAA to start the football season in October. That's too bad for the Orangemen, who over the past two seasons have lost only twice in the months of October, November and December. Last season, after opening with a resounding win over Wisconsin in the Kickoff Classic, Syracuse mysteriously dropped three in a row. The Orange went on to win eight straight, capping off its first outright Big East title with a 33-13 win over longtime nemesis Miami in the Orange Bowl. In 1996, SU buried itself at 0-2 before digging out with eight consecutive wins.

This season looks to repeat. Syracuse opens with Tennessee in the Carrier Dome and then travels to Ann Arbor the following week to face defending national champion Michigan. "Obviously, I don't know if we could have a more demanding early season schedule," Syracuse coach Paul Pasqualoni said.

## OFFENSE

Fortunately for the Orangemen, quarterback Donovan McNabb, the Big East's Offensive Player of the Year the past two seasons, opted to return for his fourth and final season after flirting with the idea of turning pro. McNabb threw for 2,488 yards and 20 TDs last season, both career highs, although he had an erratic performance down the stretch, which concluded with 23 incompletions in Syracuse's 35-18 loss to Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl.

With McNabb back at the helm, there's no telling how many points Syracuse will put up this season. Virtually all the skill performers are back from a team that averaged 55 points in three October contests last season. There's no deeper backfield in the Big East than Kyle McIntosh, Rob Konrad, Dee

Brown and newcomer James Mungro. And it's hard to find a more explosive tandem of receivers anywhere than Quinton Spotwood and Kevin Johnson.

The key is Konrad, a senior fullback who could be a Mike Alstott-type back in the NFL if he can only stay healthy. Konrad played in parts of only seven games in '97 and had season-ending surgery last November to re-attach a tendon in his left knee. "As far as one unit goes, I don't know if we've ever returned three seniors [McNabb, Konrad and McIntosh], all of whom have played extensively and started for us," Pasqualoni said.

## DEFENSE

Here's where it gets sticky for the Orange. Pasqualoni must replace 75 percent of his defensive line and four other starters, including All-American free safety Donovan Darius and strong safety Tebucky Jones, both of whom went in the first round of the NFL Draft.

This task falls to new defensive coordinator George DeLeone, the same George DeLeone who orchestrated Syracuse's vaunted freeze-option attack for 12 seasons before leaving last year to become the San Diego Chargers offensive line coach.

In the secondary, senior Phil Nash is the only returning starter, and he's moving from corner to safety. Sophomore Will Allen and junior Ian McIntosh will start at the corners, while senior Jason Poles is expected to man the other safety spot. Syracuse will rely on several redshirt freshmen—J.R. Johnson, Charles Burton and Quintin Harris—for depth.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Orangemen expect many happy returns in '98 from Spotwood and Kevin Johnson. Spotwood tied an NCAA record with four punt returns for touchdowns in '97, while Johnson returned two kicks for TDs, including the opening kickoff of the college football season against Wisconsin.

## RECRUITING

Syracuse went searching for McNabb's heir apparent at quarterback and came up empty, losing Michael Vick to Big East rival Virginia Tech and Derrick Joseph to Tulane. The Orange also lost coveted wide receiver Marquise Walker, a local product, to Michigan. But the Orange did land a pair of excellent receivers in Adonis Kinsey (Dewitt, N.Y.) and Jay Chapman (Washington, D.C.) along with several outstanding DB prospects, led by Maurice McLain (Elizabeth, N.J.).

By Dave Allen

## SYRACUSE Facts

**Coach:** Paul Pasqualoni, 8th year, 94-39-1

**'97 Record:** 9-4 (6-1 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Carrier Dome, Syracuse, N.Y. (50,000; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (7 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Donovan Darius, DB (1st-team All-American); Antwaune Ponds, LB (1st-team All-Big East); Tebucky Jones, DB (2nd-team All-Big East); Roland Williams, TE (2nd-team All-Big East); Rod Gadson, CB (2nd team All-Big East);

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Donovan McNabb, Sr., 145-265-2,488 yards, 20 TDs, 6 INTs

**Rushing:** Kyle McIntosh, Sr., 181 carries, 898 yards, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Quinton Spotwood, Jr., 41, 8 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Spotwood, 797

**Tackles:** Keith Bulluck, Jr., 90

**Sacks:** Stan Gibbs, Sr., 3

**Interceptions:** 4 tied with 1 each

**Punting:** Doug Dunkin, Sr., 40.7 avg.

**Kicking:** Nate Trout, Sr., 11-15 FGs (long 48), 46-52 PATs

**Scoring:** Trout, 79 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 TENNESSEE  
9/12 @ Michigan  
9/19 RUTGERS  
10/1 @ N.C. State  
10/10 CINCINNATI  
10/17 @ Boston College  
10/31 PITTSBURGH  
11/7 @ West Virginia  
11/14 VIRGINIA TECH  
11/21 @ Temple  
11/28 MIAMI (FLA.)

## 1997 RESULTS

vs. Wisconsin; W, 34-0\*  
N.C. STATE; L, 32-31  
@ Oklahoma; L, 36-34  
@ Virginia Tech; L, 31-3  
TULANE; W, 30-19  
EAST CAROLINA; W, 56-0  
@ Rutgers; W, 50-3  
TEMPLE; W, 60-7  
WEST VIRGINIA; W, 40-10  
BOSTON COLL.; W, 20-13  
@ Pittsburgh; W, 32-27  
@ Miami; W, 33-13  
vs. Kansas St.; L, 35-18\*\*

\*Kickoff Classic  
\*\*Fiesta Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: D. McNabb (Sr., 6-2, 221)\* M. Williams (Fr., 6-2, 196)  
RB: K. McIntosh (Sr., 5-8, 179)\* D. Brown (So., 5-11, 201)  
FB: R. Konrad (Sr., 6-3, 255)\* N. Sudano (Jr., 6-1, 252)  
WR: Q. Spotwood (Jr., 5-11, 178)\* J. Lowe (Jr., 5-11, 189)  
WR: K. Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 184) D. Daniel (Sr., 5-11, 194)  
LT: M. Baniewicz (Jr., 6-6, 272)\* M. Beaudoin (Jr., 6-4, 268)  
LG: S. Kieman (Sr., 6-3, 210)\* F. Giufre (Jr., 6-3, 287)  
C: C. Bowen (Jr., 6-4, 288)\* P. J. Alexander (Fr., 6-3, 292)  
RG: B. O'Donnell (Jr., 6-3, 307) J. Burton (Fr., 6-5, 268)  
RT: J. Pilon (Jr., 6-6, 286) J. Wellington (Jr., 6-6, 309)  
TE: S. Brominski (Jr., 6-5, 262) M. Bennett (Jr., 6-4, 244)

### DEFENSE

DE: S. King (Fr., 6-1, 248) E. Downing (Jr., 6-4, 290)  
DT: B. Coleman (Sr., 6-2, 302)\* A. McDonald (Fr., 6-1, 286)  
DT: G. DeLoatch (Fr., 6-5, 270) R. Simpkins (So., 6-3, 269)  
DE: C. Snell (So., 6-2, 221) D. Dinkins (Jr., 6-4, 275)  
LB: K. Bulluck (Jr., 6-3, 218)\* K. O'Neil (Jr., 6-3, 213)  
LB: M. Greenwood (So., 6-0, 221)\* M. Klaus (Jr., 6-3, 248)  
LB: S. Gibbs (Sr., 6-0, 212) R. Wells (Fr., 5-11, 210)  
CB: I. McIntosh (Jr., 5-10, 162) C. Burton (Fr., 6-1, 188)  
CB: W. Allen (So., 5-11, 175) Q. Harris (Fr., 6-0, 193)  
SS: J. Poles (Sr., 6-3, 210) J. R. Johnson (Fr., 6-0, 204)  
FS: P. Nash (Sr., 6-0, 196)\* J. Kinds (So., 6-1, 206)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: N. Trout (Jr., 5-8, 184)\* P. Ferris (So., 5-8, 180)  
P: D. Dunkin (Sr., 5-10, 165)\* P. Ferris (So., 5-8, 180)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Donovan McNabb needs just 2,212 passing yards and 1,498 total yards to surpass Marvin Graves as Syracuse's all-time leader in both categories.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.athletics.syr.edu



## TEMPLE Facts

**Coach:** Bobby Wallace, 1st year

**'97 Record:** 3-8 (3-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Veterans Stadium, Philadelphia, Pa. (66,592; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 14 (7 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Excel Lucas, CB (2nd-team All-Big East); Larry Chester, DT (2nd-team All-Big East); Josh Boies, P (2nd-team All-Big East); Decara Burgess, LB; Kevin Walker and Troy Kersey, WRs; Marcus Counts, SS; Roger Chanoine, OT

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Pat Bonner, Sr., 107-202-1,561 yards, 7 TDs, 12 INTs

**Rushing:** Stacey Mack, Sr., 172 carries, 842 yards, 10 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Mack, 23

**Receiving (Yards):** Mack, 229

**Tackles:** Jerry Urias, Sr., 94

**Sacks:** Michael Tripp, Sr., 9

**Interceptions:** Damian Jones, So., 1

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Nicholl, 6-9 FGs (long 42), 22-23 PATs

**Scoring:** Mack, 60 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Toledo  
9/12 AKRON  
9/19 @ Boston College  
9/26 @ Maryland  
103 WILLIAM & MARY  
10/10 WEST VIRGINIA  
10/17 @ Virginia Tech  
10/31 @ Rutgers  
11/7 @ Pittsburgh  
11/14 MIAMI (FLA.)  
11/21 SYRACUSE

### 1997 RESULTS

@ W. Michigan; L, 34-14  
BOSTON COLL.; W, 28-21  
@ Penn State; L, 52-10  
VIRGINIA TECH; L, 23-13  
MARYLAND; L, 24-21  
PITTSBURGH; W, 17-13  
@ Syracuse; L, 60-7  
@ Miami (Fla.); L, 47-15  
RUTGERS; W, 49-7  
@ Navy; L, 49-17  
@ West Virginia; L, 41-21

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: K. Harvey (Jr., 5-11, 195)\* G. Muckerson (Fr., 5-11, 175)  
RB: S. Mack (Sr., 6-1, 220) E. Jackson (So., 5-11, 192)\*  
FB: C. Wilkinson (Jr., 6-3, 230) V. Ford (Sr., 5-10, 252)  
WR: K. Carter (Sr., 5-9, 171)\* J. Butler (Jr., 6-0, 179)  
WR: R. Harrison (Sr., 6-0, 210) F. McBride (Sr., 5-10, 197)  
TE: J. Khamis (Jr., 6-2, 250) J. Steele (So., 6-4, 225)  
LT: T. Leach (Jr., 6-7, 322)\* J.J. Cardona (Sr., 6-5, 295)  
LG: K. Dean (So., 6-4, 304)\* R. Williams (Jr., 6-2, 292)  
C: C. Morris (Sr., 6-4, 285)\* J.J. Cardona (Sr., 6-5, 295)  
RG: S. Oster (Sr., 6-3, 330)\* T. Ross (Jr., 6-4, 287)  
RT: K. Benzio (Sr., 6-6, 260) G. Hilliard (Fr., 6-5, 295)

### DEFENSE

DE: T. Godbold (Sr., 6-5, 255) A. Intoe (Sr., 6-3, 226)  
DT: P. Pichette (Sr., 6-4, 265) M. Ayala (Sr., 6-2, 287)  
DT: K. Williamson (Sr., 6-3, 258)\* M. Nkwenti (So., 6-4, 285)  
DE: M. Tripp (Sr., 6-3, 253)\* J. Roberts (Jr., 6-7, 275)  
LB: L. Talley (So., 5-11, 225)\* F. Graham (Sr., 6-3, 240)  
LB: A. Staples (So., 6-3, 220) T. Suman (Fr., 6-3, 235)  
LB: R. Budgetts (Sr., 6-3, 228) W. McCallum (So., 6-3, 215)\*  
CB: T. Indio (Sr., 5-8, 181) R. Washington (Jr., 5-11, 170)  
CB: L. Adams (Sr., 5-9, 180)\* R. Meade (Jr., 6-0, 170)  
SS: J. Urias (Sr., 6-0, 195)\* Q. Brannon (Jr., 6-3, 205)  
FS: L. Washington (Jr., 6-0, 175) F. Fryar (Jr., 5-11, 170)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Nicholl (Sr., 6-2, 193)\* D. McManamon (So., 5-8, 165)  
P: R. Harrison (Sr., 6-0, 210) D. Nicholl (Sr., 6-2, 193)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONES

• New coach Bobby Wallace won three NCAA Division II titles at North Alabama and his new coaching staff owns 21 national championship rings.  
• Temple's 3-2 record in games played in Philadelphia marked the school's first home winning record since 1990.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.temple.edu/owlsport

# Temple



STACEY MACK-RB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Notch some wins against a soft early schedule.
- QB Kevin Harvey must live up to his prep press clippings.
- Rush defense must improve after allowing 199.8 yards per game in '97.

Since joining the Big East in 1991, the only good years connected with Temple football were the tires on the all-too-few cars found parked in the Veterans Stadium's lot on an autumn afternoon. Pennsylvania and South Jersey prep games were better attended. Last December, Bobby Wallace, Temple's 23rd head coach, was faced with the daunting task of turning the Owls' around. "I'm no marketing or promotions expert," said Wallace, "but my feeling is that all I can do to help the attendance figures at Temple is to win some football games and to put a solid football team on the field."

And Wallace has some experience at that—first as an assistant to Pat Dye at Auburn (where he recruited a guy named Bo Jackson), and then when he took over a down-and-out North Alabama program and turned it into a three-time NCAA Division II champ.

### OFFENSE

This year the Owls' fortunes will rest on the shoulders of 5-11, quick-as-a-hiccup option quarterback Kevin Harvey. Harvey, the most celebrated recruit in Temple football history, earned first-team *USA Today* All-America honors in 1995 when he scored a New Jersey state record 656 career points. "Kevin is one of the most touted athletes ever to sign with Temple," said Wallace. "So our feeling is put the ball in his hands 50 or 60 times a game and good things will happen."

The backfield will see the return of the "Mack and Jack Attack"—as in senior Stacey Mack (842 yards, 10 TDs in '97) and junior Elmarko Jackson (645, 7 TDs). They'll be joined for a three-man set by junior fullback Calvin Wilkinson. Ramod Lee, the Owls' top rusher and scorer in 1996, is also available for duty at one of the backfield spots.

Whether or not the Owls will be able to

execute Wallace's ball-control offense is up to the team's veteran offensive line, which returns four of five starters. Guards Scott Oster (6-3, 330) and Conrad Dean (6-4, 304) could be all-league performers.

### DEFENSE

Watching old game films of the Owls defense must have scared Wallace more than anything Wes Craven could imagine. The Owls were 98th in the nation in scoring defense (33.7 ppg) and 95th in the nation in run defense (199.8 ypg).

Because his unit is undersized, Wallace will employ an attacking style of defense. "We're not big and overpowering, [so] we have to attack rather than play catch," said Wallace. "Because if we play catch, 300-pound offensive linemen are going to beat up our 250 to 270-pound defensive linemen every time."

Senior pass rush specialist Michael Tripp (nine sacks) is the only remaining constant. Senior Kenyatta Williamson (65 tackles), an undersized defensive tackle last season at just over 250 pounds, might be tried at middle linebacker. Wallace will give auditions to one-time JUCO hoopster Jermaine Roberts (6-7, 275), Peppi Pichette (6-4, 265), Mathias Nkwenti (6-4, 285) and JUCO import Rosemond Juin (6-3, 250) for the defensive front. The starting linebacking corp of LeVar Talley, Akeiff Staples and Ramone Budgetts (all in the 220-to-228 pound range) is small, making the Owls susceptible to the run.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Wallace failed to find a punter to replace Josh Boies, a second-team All-Big East selection who averaged 41.9 yards per boot last season. Senior Dave Nicholl (6-9 FGs, 22-23 PATs in 1997) will handle the kicking chores while backing up senior Rahsaan Harrison at punter.

### RECRUITING

Despite getting a late start, Wallace inked 29 players, including six junior college players. Two of the JUCO imports, Sean Martin (Hancock JC) and Jason Thompson (Scottsdale JC), should fight for immediate time in the Owls' undersized and talent-starved defensive backfield. Devin Scott, a 6-foot, 190-pound quarterback who was recruited by Alabama, Notre Dame, Tennessee and South Carolina as a defensive back, chose Temple for the opportunity to eventually run Wallace's option attack after Harvey graduates.

By Bill Doherty





AL CLARK-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Rebuilt offensive line must gel quickly.
- Wideouts must be ready to produce from Day One.
- Defense must not surrender deep pass plays like it did in final four games of 1997.

Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer has worked wonders at his alma mater—totaling 27 wins in the past three seasons and taking the Hokies to five straight bowl games. But last fall, Beamer ran into an opponent that left even him powerless: The injury bug.

"Not only were we suffering injuries, they were all happening at the same positions," said Beamer. "We kept losing wide receivers, weakside linebackers, and our quarterback Al Clark was playing at 60 percent efficiency after he injured his knee."

As a result, a 1997 season that began with such promise (4-0) ended with such disappointment (0-3). With Clark's mobility and his number of proven targets limited, opposing teams ganged up at the line of scrimmage and choked off Tech's normally deadly ground assault. The injuries at weakside linebacker forced Beamer to move first-team All-Big East safety Pierson Prioleau to outside linebacker, weakening the secondary so that it was victimized deep in the final four games.

Despite a tougher non-league schedule (Clemson has been added for 1998), expect the winning to return for Beamer and Co.—that is, if the rebuilt offensive line can keep Clark healthy, the defense can stop giving up the big play and the injury bug can be exterminated.

## OFFENSE

Beamer feels the key to the entire 1998 season will be the play of his offensive line. The left side of the line returns tackles Derek Smith (6-6, 309) and guard Dwight Vick (6-4, 323), both potential NFL players. The retooled forward wall must protect Clark, the team's nimble-footed and ultra-accurate quarterback (1,476 passing yards, 10 TDs, 3 INTs). Tailback will be split by one-time Clemson transfer Lamont Pegues and redshirt sophomore

Shyrone Stith. The receiving corps will combine something old (veteran flankers Angelo Harrison and Marcus Gildersleeve) with something new (freshman Andre Davis and redshirt junior Ricky Hall). "The receivers concern me a little," Beamer said. "I feel like we're fighting time there. We need these guys—who are talented, but not very experienced—to be good early because we start the season with three tough games."

## DEFENSE

Seven starters return on defense—including all-star candidates defensive tackle John Engelberger (70 tackles), linebacker Jamel Smith (92 tackles) and safety Prioleau (81 tackles). Engelberger, an All-Big East defensive end last season, is being moved inside to tackle this fall. He'll be joined along the forward wall by returning tackles Nat Williams and Carl Bradley, as well as by vastly improved ends Corey Moore (13 QB hurries in '97) and Chris Cyrus. Smith, who was second on the team in tackles last season, will be joined by

Michael Hawkes and converted free safety Lorenzo Ferguson. Prioleau, the team's rover, "has great ability and he never takes a play off," Beamer said. The secondary should be the strength of this defensive team, with starters Keion Carpenter, Anthony Midget and Ike Charlton as well as valuable senior nickel back Loren Johnson to complete the unit.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Tech possesses one of the best kicking games in college football with juniors Shayne Graham and Jimmy Kibble both back. Graham, a two-time All-Big East selection, was Tech's leading scorer (92 points) after nailing 19 of 23 field goal attempts and 35 of 36 extra points last fall. Kibble averaged a school-record 45.1 yards on 50 punts.

## RECRUITING

Beamer hauled in what he calls "our most talented group of newcomers ever on paper", thanks to three major in-state commitments in the final week before signing. QB Michael Vick chose Tech over Syracuse and Clemson and was a SuperPrep All-American. The 6-4, 222-pound LB Jake Houseright was also on SuperPrep's All-American team. RB Lee Suggs rushed for more than 2,700 yards at William Fleming High. The Hokies landed seven of defensive linemen, including two JUCO imports in Joe Marchant and Daniel Nihipali, who should battle for starting spots.

By Bill Doherty

## VIRGINIA TECH Facts

**Coach:** Frank Beamer, 12th year, 68-56-2

**'97 Record:** 7-5 (5-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Lane Stadium, Blacksburg, Va. (51,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 12 (3 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Gennaro DiNapoli, G (1st-team All-Big East); Todd Washington, C (1st-team All-Big East); Kerwin Hairston, DT (1st-team All-Big East); Ken Oxendine, RB (2nd-team All-Big East)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Al Clark, Sr., 110-192-1,476 yards, 10 TDs, 3 INTs

**Rushing:** Lamont Pegues, Sr., 85 carries, 391 yards, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Angelo Harrison, Sr., 18, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Marcus Gildersleeve, Jr., 286 yards, 3 TDs

**Tackles:** Jamel Smith, Jr., 92

**Sacks:** John Engelberger, Jr., 6

**Interceptions:** Keion Carpenter, Sr., 4

**Punting:** Jimmy Kibble, Jr., 45.1 avg.

**Kicking:** Shayne Graham, Jr., 19-23 FGs (long 48), 35-36 PATs

**Scoring:** Graham, 92 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 EAST CAROLINA  
9/12 @ Clemson  
9/19 @ Miami (Fla.)  
9/26 PITTSBURGH  
10/8 @ Boston College  
10/17 TEMPLE  
10/24 @ Ala.-Birm.  
10/31 WEST VIRGINIA  
11/14 @ Syracuse  
11/21 RUTGERS  
11/28 VIRGINIA

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Rutgers; W, 51-19  
SYRACUSE; W, 31-3  
@ Temple; W, 23-13  
ARKANSAS ST.; W, 50-0  
MIAMI (OHIO); L, 24-17  
BOSTON COLL.; W, 17-7  
@ West Virginia; L, 30-17  
ALA.-BIRM.; W, 37-0  
MIAMI (FLA.); W, 27-25  
@ Pittsburgh; L, 30-23  
@ Virginia; L, 34-20  
vs. North Carolina; L, 42-3\*

\*Gator Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: A. Clark (Sr., 6-1, 202)\* D. Meyer (So., 6-3, 198)  
RB: L. Pegues (Sr., 5-9, 209) S. Stith (So., 5-8, 199)  
FB: C. Hawkins (Jr., 6-0, 207) J. Ferguson (Fr., 5-9, 196)  
WR: A. Davis (Fr., 6-1, 180) R. Hall (Jr., 6-3, 207)  
WR: A. Harrison (Sr., 6-1, 181) B. Samuel (Fr., 6-0, 181)  
TE: D. Carter (So., 6-2, 260) B. Slowikowski (Fr., 6-5, 236)  
LT: A. Lambo (So., 6-3, 293) M. Lehr (So., 6-3, 265)  
LG: D. Vick (Sr., 6-4, 323)\* D. Nihipali (Jr., 6-4, 304)  
C: T. Schnecker (Jr., 6-0, 268) K. Short (Jr., 6-3, 273)  
RG: J. Redding (So., 6-4, 287) D. Campbell (Jr., 6-3, 307)  
RT: D. Smith (Sr., 6-6, 309)\* D. Kadela (So., 6-7, 271)

### DEFENSE

DE: C. Moore (Jr., 6-0, 217) R. Smith (6-2, 235, Sr.)  
DT: J. Engelberger (Jr., 6-4, 263)\* D. Pugh (Fr., 6-3, 269)  
DT: N. Williams (Jr., 6-2, 270)\* C. Bradley (Jr., 6-2, 281)  
DE: C. Cyrus (Jr., 6-2, 235) D. Monroe (So., 6-4, 237)  
LB: J. Smith (Jr., 6-1, 225)\* T. Edmond (Sr., 6-1, 214)  
LB: M. Hawkes (Jr., 6-0, 229) B. Welch (Fr., 6-0, 230)  
LB: P. Summers (So., 6-0, 189) L. Ferguson (So., 6-0, 202)  
CB: A. Midget (Jr., 5-11, 181)\* L. Austin (Fr., 5-9, 166)  
CB: I. Charlton (So., 6-0, 200) L. Johnson (Sr., 5-10, 184)\*  
SS: P. Prioleau (Sr., 5-10, 191)\* C. Bird (So., 5-11, 212)  
FS: K. Carpenter (Sr., 6-0, 205)\* N. Sorensen (So., 6-3, 201)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: S. Graham (Jr., 6-0, 197)\* J. Kibble (Jr., 5-10, 179)  
P: J. Kibble (Jr., 5-10, 179)\* S. Graham (Jr., 5-11, 196)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Virginia Tech has gone to a bowl game the past five years in a row—only one of 10 Division I-A programs to have done so.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.sports.vt.edu



# WEST VIRGINIA Facts

**Coach:** Don Nehlen, 19th year, 130-77-4; 183-112-8 overall  
**'97 Record:** 7-5 (4-3 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Mountaineer Field, Morgantown, W. Va. (63,500; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 16 (8 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Henry Slay, DT (1st-team All-Big East); John Hadley, LB (2nd-team All-Big East); Bob Baum, DE; Bryan Baumann, P

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Marc Bulger, Jr., 192-323-2,465 yards, 14 TDs, 10 INTs  
**Rushing:** Amos Zereoue, Jr., 281 carries, 1,589 yards, 18 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Shawn Foreman, Sr., 77, 5 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Foreman, 928  
**Tackles:** Barrett Green, Jr., 71  
**Sacks:** Gary Stills, Sr., 12  
**Interceptions:** Nate Terry, Sr., and Green, 4  
**Punting:** Jay Taylor, Jr., 38.0 avg.  
**Kicking:** Taylor, 15-18 FGs (long 52), 43-43 PATs  
**Scoring:** Zereoue, 108 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 OHIO STATE  
 9/19 MARYLAND  
 9/26 TULSA  
 10/3 @ Navy  
 10/10 @ Temple  
 10/24 MIAMI (FLA.)  
 10/31 @ Va. Tech  
 11/7 SYRACUSE  
 11/14 @ Rutgers  
 11/21 BOSTON COLL.  
 11/27 @ Pittsburgh

## 1997 RESULTS

MARSHALL; W, 42-31  
 EAST CAROLINA; W, 24-17  
 @ Boston College; L, 31-24  
 @ Miami (Fla.); W, 28-17  
 RUTGERS; W, 48-0  
 @ Maryland; W, 31-14  
 VIRGINIA TECH; W, 30-17  
 @ Syracuse; L, 40-10  
 TEMPLE; W, 41-21  
 @ Notre Dame; L, 21-14  
 PITTSBURGH; L, 41-38  
 vs. Georgia Tech; L, 35-30\*  
 \*CarQuest Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: M. Bulger (Jr., 6-3, 190)\* A. Keating (Fr., 6-4, 195)  
 RB: A. Zereoue (Jr., 5-10, 200)\* A. Swoope (Jr., 5-10, 208)  
 FB: A. Becht (Jr., 6-2, 240) W. Ours (So., 6-1, 250)  
 WR: S. Foreman (Sr., 6-1, 205)\* C. Osegueda (Jr., 6-2, 200)  
 WR: D. Saunders (Sr., 6-2, 205) K. Ivy (Jr., 6-2, 185)  
 TE: A. Becht (Jr., 6-6, 255)\* M. Cormann (So., 6-3, 230)  
 LT: S. Page (Jr., 6-6, 300)\* M. Wilson (So., 6-5, 265)  
 LG: R. Dunnigan (Sr., 6-3, 305)\* R. Gilliam (So., 6-5, 300)  
 C: E. de Groh (Sr., 6-5, 290)\* J. Conte (Jr., 6-4, 290)  
 RG: B. Pukenas (Sr., 6-4, 295)\* S. Ford (Sr., 6-3, 300)  
 RT: B. Holland (Sr., 6-5, 295) T. Russell (So., 6-7, 290)

### DEFENSE

DE: R. Brady (Jr., 6-2, 250) G. Robinette (Jr., 6-2, 280)  
 NG: J. Thornton (Sr., 6-3, 300)\* B. Allara (So., 6-3, 295)  
 DT: K. Landolt (Sr., 6-5, 285) C. Forbes (Sr., 6-0, 280)  
 LB: G. Stills (Sr., 6-2, 244)\* M. Thurston (Fr., 6-3, 220)  
 LB: D. Cogdell (Sr., 6-2, 235)\* B. Green (Jr., 6-0, 205)\*  
 LB: M. Plants (Jr., 6-3, 235) K. Kayden (Fr., 6-3, 220)  
 LB: C. Edmonds (So., 6-3, 220) C. Pfaff (Fr., 6-3, 215)  
 CB: N. Terry (Sr., 6-3, 175)\* S. Davis (Sr., 5-11, 180)  
 CB: C. Fisher (Sr., 6-1, 185) P. Bastien (Jr., 6-1, 185)\*  
 FS: J. Porter (Jr., 6-3, 215) R. Sherrod (Fr., 6-2, 180)  
 SS: G. Thompkins (Jr., 5-11, 205)\* B. Sensabaugh (Jr., 6-2, 205)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Taylor (Jr., 6-1, 185)\* J. Ohliger (Jr., 5-10, 210)  
 P: J. Taylor (Jr., 6-1, 185) B. Rauh (Fr., 5-9, 190)

\* Denotes returning starter

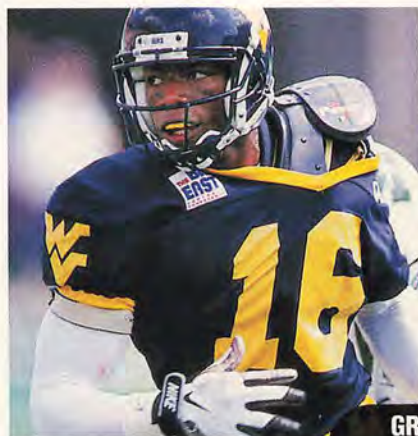
### MILESTONE

• Running back Amos Zereoue enters his junior season needing just 25 yards to pass Artie Owens (2,624 yards) as the school's career rushing leader. Zereoue also shares the mark for most career 100-yard games (13) with Owens.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.wvu.edu/~sports

# West Virginia



SHAWN FOREMAN-WR

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Get WR David Saunders and LB Damon Cogdell back healthy.
- Open some holes for Amos Zereoue and watch him go.
- Get back to playing West Virginia D.

Raise the possibility of a Big East championship in 1998 to Don Nehlen, and expect an 'eer-ful from the Mountaineers coach.

Sure, the Mountaineers return the best running back in school history, four starters to block for him, a talented fleet of receivers, one of the nation's finest kickers and two potential All-Americans on defense. But they also return a lot of broken parts that Nehlen must piece back together to challenge Syracuse, Virginia Tech and Miami (Fla.) for the title.

West Virginia's once-promising '97 season was buried under an avalanche of injuries. The Mountaineers were 6-1 and on top of the Big East when the injuries hit, hard. Linebacker Damon Cogdell fractured his hip. Wide receiver Khorl Ivy broke his fibula. Star running back Amos Zereoue sustained a mild case of turf toe. Linebacker Gary Stills, who already had suffered a sprained knee and a broken thumb, fractured his kneecap.

For the second consecutive season, West Virginia ended with four losses in five games. Their defense, No. 1 in the nation in 1996, fell to 43rd in '97. "If we're going to be any good at all this season, we're going to have to be healthy on defense," said Nehlen, who lost nine defensive starters for at least one game to injuries last season. "We can't get everybody hurt like we did last season and expect to play the kind of defense that makes us successful."

## OFFENSE

The healing process for West Virginia was certainly made a lot easier by Zereoue's decision to return for his junior season. Famous Amos, who finished third in the nation in rushing last season with 1,589 yards, is so popular with the people of West Virginia that many have taken to naming their puppies after him. He finished 10th in the Heisman Trophy balloting last season, helped by a ca-

reer-best 234-yard rushing day at Notre Dame. West Virginia's not-so-famous receiving corps may not remain that way for long if David Saunders can make it back from a serious knee injury sustained in the final scrimmage of camp last August. Saunders set a then-WVU record with 76 catches for 1,043 yards in '96, only to have the record broken by Shawn Foreman (77 catches, 928 yards) last season. Wideout Pat Greene had 12 catches for 205 yards in the Pittsburgh game.

## DEFENSE

Stills tied a school record last season with four sacks in the opener against Marshall, then sprained his knee against East Carolina. Six plays into the Miami game he suffered a compound fracture of his left thumb that required surgery (during the game) and then, against the Irish, he broke his patella but remained in the game for the entire second half. Despite all the trips to the emergency room, he ranked second in the Big East in sacks with 12 and tied for fourth on the team in tackles with 67.

Joining Stills on the Big East's first-team defense last season was nose tackle John Thornton, a fourth-year starter who could be the school's best-ever defensive lineman. But, for the Mountaineers to get back to playing West Virginia defense, they'll need a healthy Cogdell, who registered 66 tackles before injuring himself against Syracuse. "His injury just killed us last year," Nehlen said.

To provide some insurance to the depleted linebacking corps, Nehlen moved Barrett Green (4 INTs a year ago) over from strong safety this spring. JaJuan Seider, who played the last two seasons behind quarterback Mark Bulger, will also get a shot at linebacker, as will David Carter, who moves over from safety.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Nehlen must find a punter, but the rest of this unit is solid. Kicker Jay Taylor, one of 20 semifinalists for the Lou Groza Award last season, hit on 15 of 18 field-goal attempts in '97. Return specialist Nate Terry ran back two kicks for TDs last season, including a school-record tying 100-yarder against East Carolina.

## RECRUITING

With the exception of Jerome Taylor, a OL/DL from Lewisburg, W. Va., via Hargrave Military, not one of the Mountaineers' 26 signees was from the state of West Virginia. Nehlen did nab LB/RB Phil Braxton (Connellsville, Pa.), the nephew of former WVU All-American Jim Braxton.

By Dave Allen



## PREDICTED STANDINGS

1. Ohio State
2. Michigan
3. Penn State
4. Wisconsin
5. Purdue
6. Michigan St.
7. Northwestern
8. Iowa
9. Indiana
10. Minnesota
11. Illinois

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

### Offensive

#### Player of the Year

Sedrick Irvin,  
Michigan State

### Defensive

#### Player of the Year

Andy Katzenmoyer,  
Ohio State

### Newcomer

David Terrell,  
Michigan

## 3 BIGGEST GAMES

### ► Oct. 3

Penn State @ Ohio State

### ► Nov. 7

Penn State @ Michigan

### ► Nov. 21

Michigan @ Ohio State

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Andy Katzenmoyer, Ohio St.



# Big Ten

## All-Big Ten Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: Joe Germaine	6-4/223	Sr.	Ohio State
RB: Sedrick Irvin	6-0/217	Jr.	Michigan State
RB: Ron Dayne	5-10/263	Jr.	Wisconsin
WR: David Boston	6-3/206	Jr.	Ohio State
WR: D'Wayne Bates	6-2/210	Sr.	Northwestern
WR: Dee Miller	6-1/190	Sr.	Ohio State
TE: Jerame Tuman	6-5/244	Sr.	Michigan
OL: Aaron Gibson	6-8/390	Sr.	Wisconsin
OL: Jon Jansen	6-7/298	Sr.	Michigan
OL: S. Hutchinson	6-5/292	So.	Michigan
OL: Darell Rose	6-4/275	Sr.	Iowa
OL: Rob Murphy	6-5/300	Jr.	Ohio State
PK: B. Bartholomew	6-2/205	Sr.	Ohio State

### [DEFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL: Jared DeVries	6-4/275	Sr.	Iowa
DL: Josh Williams	6-3/271	Jr.	Michigan
DL: Roosevelt Colven	6-3/246	Sr.	Purdue
DL: A. Ogunleye	6-4/260	Jr.	Indiana
LB: A. Katzenmoyer	6-4/260	Jr.	Ohio State
LB: Brandon Short	6-3/243	Jr.	Penn State
LB: Sam Sword	6-2/242	Sr.	Michigan
DB: Antoine Winfield	5-9/189	Sr.	Ohio State
DB: Damon Moore	5-11/200	Sr.	Ohio State
DB: Marcus Ray	6-0/212	Sr.	Michigan
DB: Amp Campbell	6-0/186	Sr.	Michigan St.
P: Matt Davenport	5-10/171	Sr.	Wisconsin

► Michigan State's Sedrick Irvin is one of the league's most dynamic talents and should contend for All-America honors.



# ILLINOIS Facts



# Illinois

**Coach:** Ron Turner, 2nd year, 0-11; 7-15 overall  
**'97 record:** 0-11 (0-8 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Memorial Stadium, Champaign, Ill., (69,000; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 17 (7 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Robert Holcombe, RB; Matt Cushing, TE; Brent Taylor OL; Chris Brown, C; David James, LB; Trevor Starghill, CB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Mark Hoekstra, Sr., 115-219-1,029 yards, 5 TDs, 10 INTs  
**Rushing:** Steve Havard, Jr., 13 carries, 58 yards, 1 TD  
**Receiving (Catches):** Lenny Willis, Jr., 33  
**Receiving (Yards):** Willis, 354  
**Tackles:** Danny Clark, Jr., 95  
**Sacks:** Danny Clark and Fred Wakefield, So., 5  
**Interceptions:** Ivan Benson, Jr., 2  
**Punting:** None  
**Kicking:** Neil Rackers, Jr., 5-10 FGs (long 41), 10-11 PATs  
**Scoring:** Rackers, 25

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Washington St.  
 9/12 MIDDLE TENN. ST.  
 9/19 LOUISVILLE  
 9/26 IOWA  
 10/3 @ Northwestern  
 10/10 OHIO STATE  
 10/17 WISCONSIN  
 10/24 @ Purdue  
 10/31 @ Penn State  
 11/7 INDIANA  
 11/21 @ Michigan State

## 1997 RESULTS

SOUTHERN MISS; L, 24-7  
 @ Louisville; L, 26-14  
 WASHINGTON ST.; L, 35-22  
 @ Iowa; L, 38-10  
 PENN STATE; L, 41-6  
 @ Wisconsin; L, 31-7  
 PURDUE; L, 48-3  
 @ Indiana; L, 23-6  
 NORTHWESTERN; L, 34-21  
 @ Ohio State; L, 41-6  
 MICHIGAN ST.; L, 27-17

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: M. Hoekstra (Sr., 6-4, 220)\* K. Johnson (Jr., 6-3, 200)  
 RB: S. Havard (Jr., 5-10, 210) D. Frye (So., 6-1, 210)  
 WR: G. M.-Ashford (Sr., 6-0, 185)\* M. Dean (Jr., 6-2, 170)  
 WR: L. Willis (Jr., 5-9, 180) R. Majoy (Sr., 6-0, 174)  
 TE: J. Whitman (So., 6-4, 250)\* B. Hodges (So., 6-4, 255)  
 LT: B. Schau (Sr., 6-6, 300)\* C. Nicastro (Jr., 6-6, 300)  
 LG: M. Flaar (Jr., 6-4, 300) J.P. Machado (Sr., 6-5, 300)  
 C: T. Schau (Sr., 6-5, 294)\* B. Scott (Jr., 6-1, 290)  
 RG: R. Redniniak (So., 6-3, 295)\* L. Butkus (Fr., 6-4, 280)  
 RT: M. Sullivan (So., 6-5, 330)\* J.P. Machado (Sr., 6-5, 300)

### DEFENSE

DE: R. Murphy (Sr., 6-3, 260)\* J. Wiese (Sr., 6-3, 260)  
 DT: G. Johnson (Sr., 6-3, 290)\* S. Tesdell (So., 6-3, 270)  
 DT: M. McGee (Jr., 6-3, 270)\* J. Eberhart (So., 6-3, 264)  
 DE: R. Connor (Jr., 6-3, 280) K. Thomas (So., 6-5, 283)  
 LB: D. Clark (Jr., 6-2, 229)\* R. Franklin (So., 6-2, 243)  
 LB: E. Guenther (Sr., 6-2, 235) M. Hood (So., 6-2, 245)  
 LB: M. Young (So., 6-2, 229)\* M. Strong (Jr., 6-4, 238)  
 CB: T. Francis (Jr., 6-2, 200)\* A. Hurd (Fr., 5-10, 177)  
 CB: C. McLaurin (Jr., 5-10, 170)\* A. Julian (So., 5-9, 190)  
 SS: B. Jackson (So., 6-1, 205)\* A. Pleas (Jr., 5-10, 183)  
 FS: S. Willis (Sr., 5-11, 205)\* I. Benson (Jr., 6-2, 210)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: N. Rackers (Jr., 6-0, 195)\* B. Peterson (Fr., 6-1, 165)  
 P: S. Fitts (Fr., 6-0, 180) N. Rackers (Jr., 6-0, 195)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Illinois was one of three teams in Division I-A that completed the 1997 season without a victory; Rutgers and Northern Illinois were the other two.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.fightingillini.com



ASIM PLEAS-DB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Restore the team's pride and confidence.
- Find an adequate replacement for Robert Holcombe at running back.
- Experience early success.

Over the past four seasons, no Big Ten team has regressed more than Illinois. Last season, the Illini finished 0-11 under first-year coach Ron Turner; this is a team, mind you, that went to a bowl game as recently as 1994.

But with a new season comes new optimism. Turner landed a decent recruiting class to go along with 16 returning starters, including nine on defense. "The attitude of this team couldn't be better," Turner said. "Our players now realize what it takes to win in this conference and what type of commitment it requires to win at this level."

It also takes talent. Therein lies the problem for Turner. A former offensive coordinator for the Chicago Bears, Turner will try to make the Illini more diverse on offense. Last year's team relied on running back Robert Holcombe to carry the football on virtually every play.

The strength of this year's team could be on defense, where nine starters return. There is substantial depth at most positions.

Turner should learn quickly how much his team has improved. Illinois will open the 1998 season against defending Pac-10 champion Washington State on Sept. 5 in Pullman, Wash. "I've been to Pullman to play many times," said Turner, a former assistant coach at USC, Stanford and Arizona. "It's a tough place for a road team to play, so it'll be a great challenge for us."

## OFFENSE

How important was Robert Holcombe last season? Of Illinois' 385 rushing attempts, Holcombe was responsible for 294, including four of the team's seven rushing touchdowns. Junior Steve Havard was the second leading rusher in 1997 with 58 yards on 13 carries. Havard, a 5-10, 210-pounder, started three games at fullback last season. His straight-

ahead running style is similar to Holcombe's. So is his work ethic.

"Steve played well for us last year and has the same type of work ethic as Robert Holcombe," Turner said. "He is also bigger and stronger than he was last year and has the ability to develop into a good running back for us."

The good news is that four starters return on the offensive line and there is plenty of experience and depth at receiver. If senior quarterback Mark Hoekstra develops some consistency and somebody emerges at running back, progress could be made. Junior Kirk Johnson and redshirt freshman Jeff Ziegler will backup

Hoekstra. "Quarterback is an area I was very disappointed in last year and we have to get much better," Turner said. "I think we'll be better this year with these three quarterbacks having had a year with our system."

Junior college receivers Terrance Smalls, Connie Moore and Larry Davis will provide the speed Illinois so desperately needed last season.

## DEFENSE

There is reason to be optimistic with nine starters returning, including all four members of the secondary. Linebackers Danny Clark and Michael Young are potential impact players. So is defensive tackle Garrett Johnson and sophomore safety Bobby Jackson, who started the last five games in 1997 as a true freshman. "Danny Clark and Mike Young are two playmakers," Turner said. "They both improved as the season went on. We've got lots of experience in the defensive backfield, but we have to develop consistency in this group."

What this unit needs more than anything is to experience some early success.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Junior Neil Rackers made 5 of 10 field goals last season, including 2 of 3 from beyond 40 yards. However, his biggest problem was a lack of use because the offense performed so poorly. The punting job is wide open.

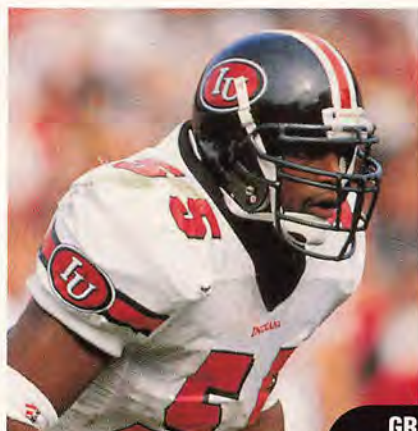
Senior receiver George McDonald-Ashford gives Illinois a quality return specialist. He led the Big Ten in kickoff returns as a sophomore with a 23.7 average.

## RECRUITING

Turner signed seven JUCO players, including three speedy receivers. He also landed Kurt Kittner, who many felt was the top prep quarterback in Illinois last season, and Antoinio Harris, who earned the same description as a running back.

By Pat Harty





JABBAR ROBINSON-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find consistency at quarterback.
- The new starters in the secondary must develop quickly.
- Improve the running game.

Cameron will try to do in his second season with the Hoosiers what Joe Tiller did in his first season at in-state rival Purdue: produce a winner.

While Tiller was leading the Boilermakers to a 9-3 record, Indiana struggled to a 2-9 record in Cameron's first season as head coach. The Hoosiers were held to seven points or less in seven games last season, including three shutouts. Purdue blasted Indiana 56-7 in the home finale in Bloomington.

Indiana has 14 starters returning from last season. But there is inexperience at several key positions, most notably on the offensive line where four starters have to be replaced. Cameron, however, refuses to use inexperience as an excuse.

"I don't think there's any question that talking about youth is dangerous from the standpoint that it is almost a built-in excuse for everybody," Cameron said. "Well, we're young." And then the assumption becomes, "Well, when we get older, we'll get better." That's not the case. Just because you get older doesn't mean you get better."

Indiana has to improve in virtually every phase of the game. The Hoosiers only rushed for 999 yards as a team last season.

## OFFENSE

Cameron came to Indiana last season with a reputation for offense. He quickly learned that reputations mean nothing in the Big Ten. Junior quarterback Jay Rodgers showed potential as a passer last season with a 58.2 completion percentage. He threw for a school-record 408 yards in a victory over Ball State. But against quality opponents, Rodgers was mediocre at best (as was his offensive line, despite four senior starters). Rodgers will be pushed by sophomore Earl Haniford and elusive freshman Antwaan

Randle-El, a former prep star from the Chicago area. According to Cameron, "The competition at quarterback should do nothing but make all three guys better."

The Hoosiers had one of the youngest receiving corps in the Big Ten last season. The top three receivers were true freshmen. A year of experience should make O.J. Conner, Tyrone Browning and Versie Gaddis more effective. Indiana's rushing attack was pathetic last season. Sophomore De'Wayne Hogan was the only player who rushed for more than 500 yards. Hogan will compete for the starting position

with junior Jason Spear and sophomores Glynn Johnson and Deion Grubbs. Another possibility is junior college transfer Frankie Franklin, the 1996 USA Today Player of the Year in Florida.

Whoever starts at tailback will team with one of the Big Ten's best fullbacks in 237-pound junior Chris Gall. Besides being an outstanding blocker, Gall led the Hoosiers with 54 receptions in 1997.

## DEFENSE

Junior defensive end Adewale Ogunleye and senior linebacker Jabbar Robinson give Indiana a solid nucleus to build around. Ogunleye had 21 tackles for losses and 10 sacks while making first-team All-Big Ten as a sophomore last season. Robinson led the team with 101 tackles. The key now is to build depth around Robinson at linebacker. Three of the four starters from last year have to be replaced in the secondary.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Sophomore kicker Andy Payne returns after an impressive freshman campaign. He tied the school record with four field goals against both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Payne made 15-of-22 field goals for the season. The competition at punter is wide open now that former All-Big Ten performer Alan Sutkowski has used up his eligibility.

## RECRUITING

Cameron's second class was described as the best recruiting performance by Indiana this decade. Besides signing some key in-state players such as offensive lineman Jamarkus Gorman from Fort Wayne, Cameron landed players from Pennsylvania, Florida, Michigan, Maryland, Mississippi, California and Kentucky. He also signed Tommy Jones, arguably the top prep quarterback in Ohio last season.

By Pat Harty

## INDIANA Facts

**Coach:** Cam Cameron, 2nd year, 2-9

**'97 Record:** 2-9 (1-7 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Memorial Stadium, Bloomington, Ind. (52,354; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 14 (7 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Dorian Wilkerson, WR; Ben Klusmeyer, TE; Khalfani Banks, OL; Victor Allotey, OL; Chris Lee, C; Benyard Jones, DL; Kevin Glaser, LB; Joey Eloms, CB; Adam Warnecke, FS; Kywin Supemaw, SS

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jay Rodgers, Jr., 192-330-2,156 yards, 6 TDs, 14 INTs

**Rushing:** De'Wayne Hogan, So., 149 carries, 506 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Chris Gall, Sr., 54

**Receiving (Yards):** O.J. Conner, So., 520

**Tackles:** Jabbar Robinson, Sr., 101

**Sacks:** Adewale Ogunleye, Jr., 10

**Interceptions:** Curtis Randle El, Jr., 2

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Andy Payne, So., 15-22 FGs (long 48), 8-9 PATs

**Scoring:** Payne, 53

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/12 W. MICHIGAN  
9/19 @ Kentucky  
9/26 @ Cincinnati  
10/3 WISCONSIN  
10/10 @ Michigan State  
10/17 IOWA  
10/24 @ Michigan  
10/31 OHIO STATE  
11/7 @ Illinois  
11/14 MINNESOTA  
11/21 @ Purdue

## 1997 RESULTS

@ North Carolina; L, 23-6  
BALL STATE; W, 33-6  
KENTUCKY; L, 49-7  
@ Wisconsin; L, 27-26  
MICHIGAN; L, 37-0  
MICHIGAN STATE; L, 38-6  
@ Ohio State; L, 31-0  
@ Iowa; L, 62-0  
ILLINOIS; W, 23-6  
PURDUE; L, 56-7  
@ Minnesota; L, 24-12

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Rodgers (Jr., 6-1, 200)\* A. Randle-El (So., 5-10, 173)  
RB: D. Hogan (So., 6-1, 220)\* M. Floyd (So., 5-9, 176)  
FB: C. Gall (Sr., 6-1, 237)\* J. Spear (Jr., 5-11, 213)  
WR: V. Gaddis (So., 5-10, 177) O.J. Conner (So., 6-2, 175)\*  
WR: T. Browning (So., 6-4, 176)\* A. Randle-El (So., 5-10, 173)  
TE: R. Maxwell (Jr., 6-3, 247)\* S. Mintzer (Fr., 6-5, 253)  
LT: P. Elisara (Jr., 6-5, 295) J. Johnson (Jr., 6-6, 290)  
LG: J. Broyles (So., 6-4, 311) N. De'Armond (Fr., 6-3, 300)  
C: M. Snyder (Jr., 6-3, 287) C. Miller (Jr., 6-3, 274)  
RG: J. Stealy (Jr., 6-0, 311) M. Snyder (Jr., 6-3, 287)  
RT: C. Robeen (Jr., 6-5, 316)\* D. Baumgarten (Jr., 6-7, 298)

### DEFENSE

DE: A. Ogunleye (Jr., 6-4, 260)\* G. Bramel (So., 6-4, 257)  
DT: P. Mandina (So., 6-4, 272) B. Bobay (Sr., 6-1, 265)  
DT: D. Gregory (Jr., 6-3, 303)\* J. Czup (Jr., 6-3, 250)\*  
DE: A. Williams (Sr., 6-5, 259)\* K. Rasmussen (Fr., 6-3, 256)  
LB: D. Schaffer (Fr., 6-1, 229) T. Brown (So., 6-1, 244)  
LB: J. Robinson (Sr., 6-2, 232)\* B. Gecina (Jr., 6-2, 228)  
LB: James Lamar (Jr., 6-0, 219) J. Goodman (So., 6-3, 221)  
CB: O.J. Spencer (So., 5-11, 185) S. Wallace (So., 6-0, 181)  
CB: C. Randle El (Jr., 5-10, 186)\* N. Clancy (So., 5-11, 195)  
SS: M. McGrath (Jr., 6-0, 193) K. Moffatt (Fr., 5-9, 198)  
FS: P. Shaw (Jr., 5-10, 195) B. Rodgers (Fr., 6-3, 218)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: A. Payne (So., 5-10, 190)\* M. Muelterer (Fr., 6-2, 170)  
P: D. Hagan (Jr., 5-10, 198) J.B. Drummond (Fr., 6-4, 200)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONES

- Rodgers threw for a school-record 408 yards in a 33-6 victory over Ball State last season.
- Defensive end Adewale Ogunleye had 21 tackles for losses last season. That is the second highest total in school history behind Van Waiters' 24 in 1986.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.athletics.indiana.edu/index



## IOWA Facts

**Coach:** Hayden Fry, 20th year, 140-81-6;

229-170-10 overall

'97 record: 7-5 (4-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Kinnick Stadium, Iowa City, Iowa (70,397; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (5 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Tavian Banks, RB (3rd-team All-American); Tim Dwight, WR (All-American return specialist); Mike Goff, OT (1st-team All-Big Ten); Plez Atkins, CB (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Matt Sherman QB; Jeremy McKinney, OG; Damon Gibson, WR; Ed Gibson, CB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Randy Reiners, Jr., 54-100-907 yards, 12 TDs, 4 INTs

**Rushing:** Rob Thein, Jr., 78 carries, 382 yards

**Receiving (Catches):** Tony Collins, Jr., 8

**Receiving (Yards):** Collins, 146

**Tackles:** Matt Hughes, Sr., 110

**Interceptions:** Eric Thigpen, Sr., 3

**Sacks:** Jared DeVries, Sr., 8

**Punting:** Jason Baker, So., 41.8 avg.

**Kicking:** Zach Bromert, Sr., 7-16 FGs (long 41), 51-54 PATs

**Scoring:** Bromert 72

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 CENT. MICHIGAN  
9/12 IOWA STATE  
9/19 @ Arizona  
9/26 @ Illinois  
10/3 MICHIGAN  
10/10 NORTHWESTERN  
10/17 @ Indiana  
10/24 WISCONSIN  
10/31 @ Purdue  
11/14 OHIO STATE  
11/21 @ Minnesota

### 1997 RESULTS

NORTHERN IOWA; W, 66-0  
TULSA; W, 54-20  
@ Iowa State; W, 63-20  
ILLINOIS; W, 38-10  
@ Ohio State; L, 23-7  
@ Michigan; L, 28-24  
INDIANA; W, 62-0  
PURDUE; W, 35-17  
@ Wisconsin; L, 13-10  
@ Northwestern; L, 15-14  
MINNESOTA; W, 31-0  
vs. Arizona State; L, 17-7\*

\*Sun Bowl

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: R. Reiners (Jr., 6-3, 200)	S. Mullen (So., 6-6, 210)
RB: R. Thein (Jr., 6-0, 231)	L. Betts (Fr., 5-11, 200)
FB: M. Burger (Sr., 6-3, 235)*	T. Bollers (Sr., 6-1, 240)
WR: B. Yamini (Jr., 6-4, 180)	E. Rozell (Sr., 5-10, 170)
WR: K. Kasper (So., 6-1, 190)	R. Barton (So., 6-1, 170)
TE: J. Dull (Jr., 6-3, 245)	Z. Flemister (Jr., 6-5, 240)
LT: B. Sobieski (So., 6-6, 285)	E. Rozell (Sr., 5-10, 170)
LG: M. Reischl (Sr., 6-5, 290)*	S. Pryor (Jr., 6-4, 290)
C: D. Rose (Sr., 6-4, 275)*	T. Baitt (Jr., 6-3, 277)
RG: C. Deal (Jr., 6-5, 285)*	J. Kerkhoff (Sr., 6-6, 275)
RT: C. Knipper (Sr., 6-5, 275)*	G. Giesen (Jr., 6-6, 312)

#### DEFENSE

DE: J. Kramer (Sr., 6-3, 235)*	T. Peterson (Jr., 6-3, 230)
DT: J. DeVries (Sr., 6-4, 275)*	S. English (Sr., 6-2, 265)
NG: A. Klein (Sr., 6-4, 280)*	C. Brown (Jr., 6-2, 270)
DT: A. Herron (So., 6-5, 265)	E. Saidat (Jr., 6-7, 265)
DE: R. Loftin (Jr., 6-4, 245)	L. Woods (So., 6-3, 235)
LB: R. Clark (Jr., 6-2, 245)*	V. Rollins (Sr., 6-3, 242)
LB: M. Hughes (Sr., 6-3, 241)*	T. Senters (Jr., 6-3, 225)
CB: J. Slattery (Jr., 6-0, 180)	M. Stockdale (Fr., 5-11, 183)
CB: T. Holman (Jr., 6-0, 190)	R. Rickards (So., 6-0, 180)
FS: E. Thigpen (Sr., 6-1, 195)*	R. Hansen (So., 6-2, 195)
SS: M. Bowen (Jr., 6-3, 190)	S. Hall (Fr., 6-0, 180)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Z. Bromert (Sr., 5-10, 175)*	G. McLaughlin (So., 5-10, 190)
P: J. Baker (So., 6-1, 182)*	A. Wheatley (Jr., 6-5, 245)

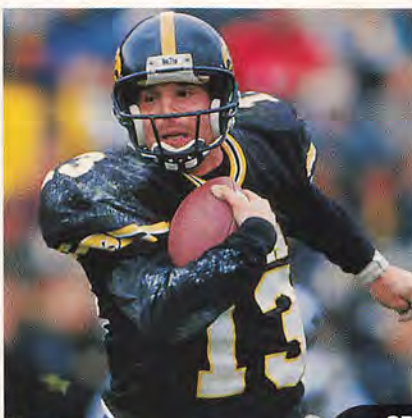
\*Denotes returning starters

#### MILESTONE

•With 33 quarterback sacks, Jared DeVries needs one more to become Iowa's all-time leader.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.hawkeyesports.com



RANDY REINERS-QB

#### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Fill the losses on offense.
- Become less dependent on big plays to score against top opponents.
- Finish undefeated out of conference.

Even with Hayden Fry returning for his 20th season as coach, it is a new era for the Iowa football team. Gone from last year's 7-5 team are All-American return specialist and leading receiver Tim Dwight, Big Ten rushing champion Tavian Banks and three-year starting quarterback Matt Sherman. They leave behind a team that underachieved last season despite their presence on offense.

After starting the 1997 season with four blowout victories against mediocre opponents, Iowa lost five of its last eight games, including a 17-7 defeat against Arizona State in the Sun Bowl. The Hawkeyes struggled when Sherman missed five games with a thumb injury. "Frankly, in my mind, the turn of the season was when Matt Sherman broke his thumb," said Fry, who turned 70 in February.

Fans are growing restless wondering when the Hawkeyes will make a serious run at the Big Ten title. Iowa has not been to the Rose Bowl since the 1990 season, the longest drought under Fry.

#### OFFENSE

Fry started the rebuilding project during the offseason by moving assistant coach and former Iowa All-America quarterback Chuck Long from defense to offense. Long will work exclusively with the quarterbacks after spending his first three seasons as the defensive backs coach. Fry also moved Chris Knipper from tight end, where he started for two seasons, to offensive right tackle during spring practice.

The leading candidates to replace Sherman at quarterback are junior Randy Reiners, 6-6 sophomore Scott Mullen and redshirt freshman Kyle McCann. Iowa was 3-1 in games that Reiners started last season. His running ability brings an added dimension to Iowa's pro-style offense, but his arm is suspect.

Mullen actually might have the most potential, and if he shows that he's ready he should get the nod. "We're going to have a great battle there between Reiners and Scott Mullen," Fry said. "It's going to be very interesting."

Reiners has found working with Long—the runner-up for the Heisman Trophy in 1985—to be a great benefit. "He stops and studies and helps us tremendously on just the little things," Reiners said.

Junior Rob Thein is the leading candidate to replace Banks at running back. Thein will be pushed by fellow junior Doug Miller and redshirt freshman Ladell Betts, a former high school All-American from Blue Springs, Mo. "The competition is going to be good for all of us," Thein said.

The offensive line is in good shape, with three returning starters headed by All-Big Ten candidate Darell Rose. However, with the loss of playmaker Dwight, the receiver corps is inexperienced and lacks depth.

#### DEFENSE

The Hawkeyes received a major boost when All-America defensive tackle Jared DeVries said no to the NFL and decided to return for his senior season shortly after the Sun Bowl. A former high school running back, DeVries could be the best defensive lineman in the collegiate ranks this season. He is Iowa's all-time leader in tackles for losses and quarterback sacks. DeVries will be joined by five other returning starters who helped Iowa finish second in the Big Ten in total defense in '97. There will be plenty of depth and talent at linebacker with Raj Clark and Matt Hughes and with the possible return of senior Vernon Rollins from a season-ending knee injury. The secondary is depleted and Iowa may utilize some of their incoming freshman to plug in the holes.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

The good news is that punter Jason Baker is back after a spectacular freshman season. Now if only he could kick field goals. Iowa lost back-to-back games at Wisconsin and Northwestern by a total of four points last season because of missed field goals from short range. Senior Zach Bromert can be trusted to make extra points, but little else.

#### RECRUITING

Iowa always seems to finish in the middle of the Big Ten in recruiting. This year was no exception. The 19-player class is led by All-American linebacker Aaron Kampman from Parkersburg, Iowa, and running back Siaka Massaquoi from Evanston, Ill.

By Pat Harty





MARCUS RAY-DB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Avoid complacency after winning national title.
- Replace the leadership and consistency of QB Brian Griese.
- Maintain dominance on defense.

It's hard to believe that Lloyd Carr was on the hot seat this time last year. Everywhere Carr went, he was questioned about a Michigan program that had lost four games in each of his first two seasons as head coach. Twelve months later, after leading Michigan to its first national championship since 1948, Carr is faced with one simple question: What can he do for an encore?

"We have been listening to all the accolades that have been thrown our way and you have to be tough enough to realize that the championship is over," Carr said, as he prepares to follow a 1997 season that saw the Wolverines finish 12-0, win the Rose Bowl and share the national title with Nebraska.

Carr has challenged his Wolverines to ignore the praise heading into this season—just as they ignored the criticism before last season. That might not be easy, because there are plenty of reasons to praise the '98 Wolverines. Although it won't be easy to replace the leadership that quarterback Brian Griese brought to the table or the consistent brilliance of Heisman Trophy winner Charles Woodson, Michigan returns most of its key players and enters the '98 season in good shape.

## OFFENSE

Redshirt junior quarterback Tom Brady throws a much better deep ball than Griese, but the latter's lack of arm strength never was a detriment. On a team that plays smashmouth offense and stifling defense, the quarterback's job is to make as few mistakes as possible. Carr has enough confidence in Brady that he named the 6-5, 223-pounder his starter before spring practice, despite the presence of veteran Scott Dreisbach and promising sophomore Jason Kapsner waiting in the wings.

Tight end Jerame Tuman, who seems to find ways to get open on third down even though everyone knows the ball is coming his

way, is the main target. Receiver Tai Streets is inconsistent, but he's good for one or two game-breaking plays each season.

Four starters return on a typically bullish Wolverine line, led by All-America candidate Jon Jansen at right tackle. Jansen and his talented linemates should enhance the all-star potential of running back Anthony Thomas. Carr brought Thomas along slowly as a freshman last year, but the 6-2, 229-pounder could be ready to explode.

## DEFENSE

It's hard to believe a unit that loses the first defensive player to win a Heisman could be even better without him—but with nine starters returning from a group that led the nation in fewest yards and points allowed, the Wolverines can't be much worse. With Woodson gone, strong safety Marcus Ray and cornerback Andre Weathers will vie to become the new marquee player in the Michigan secondary. Both are All-America candidates. Ray is a ferocious hitter, and Weathers rarely faltered in '97, even when teams tried to pick on him.

The improved play of defensive tackle Josh Williams had a lot to do with Michigan's strong rush defense last season, and now Williams returns to lead the front four. That group is backed up by an outstanding corps of linebackers led by Butkus Award semifinalist Sam Sword. Junior Dhani Jones, who had six sacks last season and improved as the year went on, could have a breakout season.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Jason Vinson and kicker Kraig Baker are unspectacular but their experience from last season is a big plus, as both of these jobs were up for grabs a year ago. Woodson will be missed in the return game, but with Thomas getting more action on offense, speedy tailback Clarence Williams has expressed interest in returning punts.

## RECRUITING

With so many players back from the championship team, it's unlikely that many freshmen will play in '98. Nevertheless, Carr landed a class that was rated by most as the best in the nation. The linchpins are quarterback Drew Henson and running back Justin Fargas. The latter, who was rated as the best running back in the country, stunned UCLA by opting to leave southern California for the colder weather in Ann Arbor. With a need at receiver, David Terrell (6-4, 200) could make an immediate impact.

By Craig Ellenport

## MICHIGAN Facts

**Coach:** Lloyd Carr, 4th year, 29-8

**'97 Record:** 12-0 (8-0 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor, Mich. (107,501; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (6 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Charles Woodson, CB (Heisman Trophy winner); Brian Griese, QB (1st-team All-Big Ten); Zach Adami, C (1st-team All-Big Ten); Glen Steele, DE (1st-team All-Big Ten); Chris Howard, RB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Tom Brady, Jr., 12-15-103 yards

**Rushing:** Anthony Thomas, So., 137 carries, 549 yards, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Jerame Tuman, Sr., 29, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Tai Streets, Sr., 476

**Tackles:** Sam Sword, Sr., 91

**Sacks:** Josh Williams, Jr., 7

**Interceptions:** Marcus Ray, Sr., 5

**Punting:** Jason Vinson, Sr., 38.3 avg.

**Kicking:** Kraig Baker, Sr., 14-19 FGs (long 42); 35-37 PATs

**Scoring:** Baker, 77 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5	@ Notre Dame
9/12	SYRACUSE
9/19	E. MICHIGAN
9/26	MICHIGAN ST.
10/3	@ Iowa
10/17	@ Northwestern
10/24	INDIANA
10/31	@ Minnesota
10/7	PENN STATE
10/14	WISCONSIN
10/21	@ Ohio State
10/28	@ Hawaii

## 1997 RESULTS

COLORADO; W, 27-3
BAYLOR; W, 38-3
NOTRE DAME; W, 21-14
@ Indiana; W, 37-0
NORTHWESTERN; W, 23-6
IOWA; W, 28-24
@ Michigan State; W, 23-7
MINNESOTA; W, 24-3
@ Penn State; W, 34-8
@ Wisconsin; W, 26-16
OHIO STATE; W, 20-14
vs. Wash. St.; W, 21-16*

\*Rose Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: T. Brady (Jr., 6-5, 223)	S. Dreisbach (Sr., 6-4, 210)
RB: A. Thomas (So., 6-2, 229)	C. Williams (Sr., 5-9, 185)
FB: D. Smith (So., 6-2, 250)	R. Jackson (So., 6-2, 207)
WR: T. Streets (Sr., 6-4, 190)*	D. Johnson (Jr., 6-3, 193)
WR: M. Knight (Jr., 6-1, 173)	K. Bryant (Jr., 6-0, 182)
TE: J. Tuman (Sr., 6-5, 244)*	M. Campbell (Sr., 6-6, 253)
LT: J. Backus (So., 6-6, 285)*	J. Potts (Jr., 6-7, 294)
LG: S. Hutchinson (So., 6-5, 292)*	J. Brooks (Fr., 6-3, 291)
C: S. Frazier (Jr., 6-4, 288)	T. Mossa (Fr., 6-3, 299)
RG: C. Ziemann (Jr., 6-7, 283)*	D. Brandt (So., 6-4, 290)
RT: J. Jansen (Sr., 6-7, 299)*	M. Williams (So., 6-5, 281)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Hall (Jr., 6-3, 251)*	J. Frynsinger (So., 6-4, 243)
DT: J. Williams (Jr., 6-3, 271)*	Eric Wilson (So., 6-4, 271)
DT: R. Renes (Jr., 6-1, 286)*	N. Miller (Sr., 6-3, 277)
DE: J. Feazell (Sr., 6-4, 275)	P. Kratus (Jr., 6-3, 271)
LB: C. Copenhaver (Sr., 6-4, 243)*	J. Holtry (Jr., 6-3, 241)
LB: S. Sword (Sr., 6-2, 242)*	I. Gold (Jr., 6-1, 205)
LB: D. Jones (Jr., 6-2, 225)*	G. Brooks (So., 6-2, 246)
CB: A. Weathers (Sr., 6-1, 188)*	L. Brown (So., 5-10, 182)
CB: J. Whitley (So., 5-11, 185)	W. Peterson (So., 6-0, 193)
SS: M. Ray (Sr., 6-0, 210)*	B. Washington (Jr., 6-0, 191)
FS: T. Hendricks (Jr., 6-2, 205)*	D. Patmon (So., 6-0, 176)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: K. Baker (Sr., 6-1, 183)*	J. Feely (Sr., 5-10, 206)
P: J. Vinson (Sr., 6-2, 194)*	C. Sargent (So., 6-3, 199)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• No Big Ten team has ever won back-to-back Rose Bowls. Michigan is looking to be the first Big Ten team to make consecutive Rose Bowl appearances since the Wolverines did it after the 1991 and '92 seasons.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.umich.edu/~mgoblue



## MICHIGAN STATE Facts

**Coach:** Nick Saban, 4th year, 19-16-1; 28-18-1 overall  
**'97 Record:** 7-5 (4-4 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Spartan Stadium, East Lansing, Mich., (72,027; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 15 (5 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Flozell Adams, LT (1st-team All-Big Ten); Josh Keur, TE (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Todd Schultz, QB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Bill Burke, Jr., 23-35-255 yards, 3 TDs, 1 INT  
**Rushing:** Sedrick Irvin, Jr., 246 carries, 1,270 yards, 9 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Gari Scott, Jr., 41, 7 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Scott, 680  
**Tackles:** Sorie Kanu, Sr., 96  
**Sacks:** Robaire Smith, Jr., 11.5  
**Interceptions:** Amp Campbell, Sr., 5  
**Punting:** Paul Edinger, Jr., 39.2 avg.  
**Kicking:** None  
**Scoring:** Irvin, 84 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

8/29 COLORADO ST.\*  
 9/5 @ Oregon  
 9/12 NOTRE DAME  
 9/26 @ Michigan  
 10/3 C. MICHIGAN  
 10/10 INDIANA  
 10/24 @ Minnesota  
 10/31 NORTHWESTERN  
 11/7 @ Ohio State  
 11/14 PURDUE  
 11/21 ILLINOIS  
 11/28 @ Penn State  
 \*BCA Football Classic

### 1997 RESULTS

W. MICHIGAN; W, 42-10  
 MEMPHIS; W, 51-21  
 @ Notre Dame; W, 23-7  
 MINNESOTA; W, 31-10  
 @ Indiana; W, 38-6  
 @ Northwestern; L, 19-17  
 MICHIGAN; L, 23-7  
 OHIO STATE; L, 37-13  
 @ Purdue; L, 22-21  
 @ Illinois; W, 27-17  
 PENN STATE; W, 49-14  
 vs. Washington; L, 51-23\*  
 \* Aloha Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Burke (Jr., 6-5, 205) G. Ornstein (Sr., 6-5, 218)  
 RB: S. Irvin (Jr., 6-0, 217)\* L. Clemons (Sr., 5-11, 204)  
 FB: G. Gould (Sr., 6-2, 238)\* L. McFadden (Jr., 6-3, 235)  
 WR: G. Scott (Jr., 6-1, 192)\* H. Haygood (Fr., 5-11, 177)  
 WR: P. Burress (So., 6-6, 219) L. Richardson (So., 6-2, 203)  
 TE: C. Baker (Fr., 6-3, 259) B. Rainko (Jr., 6-3, 235)  
 LT: D. Sucura (So., 6-3, 289) S. Murphy (Fr., 6-4, 285)  
 LG: M. Schutz (So., 6-7, 296) C. Jensen (Jr., 6-7, 289)\*  
 C: J. Strayhorn (Sr., 6-2, 286)\* C. Jensen (Jr., 6-7, 289)\*  
 RG: S. Mason (So., 6-5, 285) W. Comerford (So., 6-3, 295)  
 RT: G.R.-Randall (Jr., 6-5, 328) M. Bonito (So., 6-7, 272)

### DEFENSE

DE: D. Underwood (Sr., 6-7, 264)\* J. Saylor (So., 6-5, 270)  
 DT: B. Newkirk (Jr., 6-3, 295)\* A. Steinmetz (So., 6-4, 261)  
 DT: D. Thomas (Sr., 6-3, 282)\* P. Govens (So., 6-4, 296)  
 DE: R. Smith (Jr., 6-5, 264)\* N. Myers (Fr., 6-3, 265)  
 LB: C. Ledyard (Sr., 6-3, 242)\* S. Banks (Jr., 6-2, 215)  
 LB: T.J. Turner (So., 6-2, 254) S. Wright (Jr., 6-2, 227)  
 LB: M. Austin (Jr., 6-3, 237)\* D. Hawkins (Jr., 6-3, 248)  
 CB: A. Campbell (Sr., 6-0, 186)\* D. Bryan (Fr., 6-0, 195)  
 CB: R. Hill (So., 5-11, 173) R. Newsome (So., 5-11, 189)  
 SS: A. Morris (Jr., 5-11, 209)\* L. Marshall (Sr., 6-2, 211)  
 FS: S. Kanu (Sr., 5-11, 192)\* L. Guess (Fr., 6-1, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: P. Edinger (Jr., 5-10, 188) D. Schaefer (Fr., 5-10, 176)  
 P: D. Schaefer (Fr., 5-10, 176) P. Edinger (Jr., 5-10, 188)\*

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

•The Spartans will play only their second night game at Spartan Stadium on Sept. 12 against Notre Dame. MSU's other home night game was a season-opening victory against USC in 1987. The Spartans won the Big Ten and the Rose Bowl that year, their most recent appearance in Pasadena on New Year's Day.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.msu.edu/athletics

# S Michigan State



SEDRICK IRVIN-RB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Settle the QB situation early.
- Replace the leadership and intangibles of LB Ike Reese.
- Get the OL to jell with three new starters.

There were high hopes in East Lansing last season as Michigan State rolled to a 5-0 start and a No. 11 ranking. But a four-game losing streak and a loss in the Aloha Bowl had Spartan fans shaking their heads and wondering if coach Nick Saban would soon be headed to the NFL.

But Saban is back, as are 15 starters from a team that finished tied for sixth in the Big Ten. There are vacancies on the offensive line and potential problems at quarterback, but the defense is solid with nine returning starters. Now what the Spartans need is a dose of confidence.

"It's really important that our team learns to play with more consistency and have higher expectations," Saban said. "I do believe that relative to what we could have accomplished last year, players are starting to say, 'We really should have won nine games, so maybe we should start expecting to accomplish more,' and that attitude is starting to permeate our squad."

### OFFENSE

Junior Bill Burke, a lefthander, started two games at quarterback in 1996, but he's been nagged by a chronic back injury that has put him behind schedule. "It just crept up on me," Burke said. "It's an inflammation in that area, but I've been doing exercises and hopefully it will be manageable."

Saban has concerns about the position but he considers Burke, who replaces two-year starter Todd Schultz, to be the team's best option. If Burke can't make it or is ineffective, however, senior Gus Ornstein and junior Sam Eyde are next in line.

The Spartans are loaded in the backfield, led by tailback Sedrick Irvin, who cracked the 1,000-yard barrier for the second straight season. Garret Gould joins him in the backfield

at fullback, and Leroy McFadden, who's bigger and faster than Irvin, will see plenty of time behind both of them. Saban even has plans to occasionally put Irvin, who has great hands, at wideout as well.

Starting wide receiver Gari Scott is back, and Saban calls sophomore Plaxico Burress, who was academically ineligible last year, "an impact player." Burress starts ahead of Lavaile Richardson. Redshirt freshman Chris Baker steps in at tight end, and on the offensive line Saban will have to replace Flozell "The Hotel" Adams, one of the top tackles in the country, as well as two other starters.

### DEFENSE

The Spartans' strength is on the defensive line, which has great depth and the speed to pressure the quarterback effectively this season. Robaire Smith and Dimitrios Underwood have the potential to be All-Big Ten ends, and tackles Robert Newkirk and Desmond Thomas can both apply pressure up the middle and stop the run. Tackle Pete Govens is

back from a knee injury, and end Julian Peterson, a JUCO transfer, should also see time.

Linebacker Ike Reese will be missed as much for his leadership as for his on-field ability. His absence means that Mike Austin will move from middle linebacker to the outside to replace Reese. T.J. Turner will fill the middle, and Courtney Ledyard will return to the strong side position.

Amp Campbell led the team with five interceptions last season and returns to start at cornerback. Sorie Kanu is back at free safety, and Lemar Marshall will challenge last year's incumbent, Aric Morris, at strong safety. Replacing cornerback Ray Hill is Saban's biggest concern in the secondary. Expect to see Renaldo Hill—Ray's brother—and Richard Newsome challenge for the job.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Paul Edinger was recruited as a placekicker, but he spent his first two seasons as the Spartans' punter and slipped a bit last year. With Chris Gardner gone, Edinger expects to focus exclusively on placekicking. But that will happen only if freshman Craig Jarrett can win the punting job. If Jarrett is not ready, Edinger will handle all the kicking chores.

### RECRUITING

In addition to freshman quarterback Ryan Van Dyke, the Spartans landed defensive standout Josh Thornhill, the son of former Spartans linebacker Charles "Mad Dog" Thornhill.

By Angelique S. Chengelis





# Minnesota



PARC WILLIAMS-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Cockerham must develop quickly at quarterback.
- Find adequate replacements for Lemanzer Williams and Tutu Atwell.
- Play with more toughness on defense.

Glen Mason is in a familiar situation as he prepares for his second season as the Minnesota head coach. Before taking over at Minnesota, Mason resurrected losing programs at Kansas and Kent State. His first season at Minnesota produced mediocre results. The Golden Gophers finished 3-9, including 1-7 in the Big Ten. Minnesota lost three games by a total of four points, including a 16-15 loss at Penn State.

"It's true that we made progress and were competitive in a number of games last season," Mason said. "I'm not into moral victories though. The bottom line is to get the job done."

On offense Mason installed more balance between the run and the pass. Quarterback Cory Sauter threw for over 2,500 yards in the previous two seasons, and only passed for 1,576 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior last year. On defense the Gophers finished fifth in the Big Ten in total defense in 1997. However, they were led by All-Big Ten lineman Lemanzer Williams, who used up his eligibility.

## OFFENSE

With the graduation of Sauter, the attention now shifts to seldom-used junior Billy Cockerham. Considered a better runner than Sauter, he completed 13 of 28 passes for 242 yards and three touchdowns in limited duty last season.

Junior Thomas Hamner returns at running back after starting 19 of the last 23 games. Hamner led the Gophers in rushing in each of the past two seasons with 883 yards in 1996 and 663 yards in 1997.

Mason needs to find a replacement for do-everything receiver Tutu Atwell, who used up his eligibility last season. Junior Luke Levenson ranked second on the team in receiving

behind Atwell with 28 receptions for 400 yards. The offensive line will be anchored by sophomore center Ben Hamilton, who started all 12 games in 1997.

## DEFENSE

The Gophers ranked first in the Big Ten and No. 12 in the nation with a school-record 41 sacks last season. The problem is that Lemanzer Williams is no longer on the team. Williams tied for first in the country with 18.5 sacks as a senior last year. "Now it's time for someone else to step forward and have the kind of season he did a year ago," Mason said.

Returning starter Antoine Richard tied for third on the team with six tackles for losses. Senior Rufus Smith has switched from outside linebacker where he started 14 games over the past two seasons to a rush end position. Senior linebacker Parc Williams returns after finishing second on the team with 115 tackles last season and will move to outside linebacker after playing on the inside the previous three seasons. Sophomore Sean Hoffman, at inside linebacker, ranked second on the team last season with seven tackles for losses. Three starters return in the secondary led by junior Tyrone Carter. He set a school-record with 116 solo tackles last season.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Former walk-on Adam Bailey established himself as one of the top kickers in the Big Ten last season. He set a single-game school record by making five goals in the loss at Penn State. For the season, Bailey converted 15 of 20 field goals and 23 of 23 PATs. Junior Ryan Rindels and sophomore Steve Kempf will compete for the No. 1 punting position.

In addition to playing defensive back, Carter ranks as one of the top return specialists in the country. Carter led the Big Ten and ranked 10th nationally with an average of 26.8 yards per kick return last season.

## RECRUITING

Of the 25 newcomers, seven are from Minnesota. That includes linebacker Ryan Iversen, the consensus Player of the Year from Eden Prairie. "Keeping Minnesota's best high school players at home is a top priority," Mason said. "So it's especially gratifying that seven of the state's very best have decided to play for the Golden Gophers." One of the top out-of-state recruits is running back Tellis Redmon from Grapevine, Texas. He made first-team all-state after rushing for 1,560 yards last season.

By Pat Hart

## MINNESOTA Facts

**Coach:** Glen Mason, 2nd year, 3-9; 62-73-1 overall '97 record: 3-9 (1-7 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Minneapolis, Minn. (63,699; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 16 (6 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Lemanzer Williams, DL, (1st-team All-Big Ten); Tutu Atwell, WR (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Cory Sauter, QB; Luke Glime, OL; Greg Nelson, WR; Raymond Baylor, DL; Crawford Jordan, DB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Billy Cockerham, Jr., 13-28-242 yards, 3 TDs, 2 INTs

**Rushing:** Thomas Hamner, Jr., 170 carries, 663 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Luke Levenson, Jr., 28, 1 TD

**Receiving (Yards):** Levenson, 400

**Tackles:** Tyrone Carter, Jr., 143

**Sacks:** Ben Mezera, So., 4

**Interceptions:** Mezera, Craig Scruggs, Sr., Jimmy Wyrick, Jr., 2

**Punting:** Ryan Rindels, Jr., 40.4 avg.

**Kicking:** Adam Bailey, Sr., 15-20 FGs (long 52), 23-23 PATs

**Scoring:** Bailey, 68

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 ARKANSAS ST.  
9/12 @ Houston  
9/19 MEMPHIS  
10/3 @ Purdue  
10/10 PENN STATE  
10/17 @ Ohio State  
10/24 MICHIGAN STATE  
10/31 MICHIGAN  
11/7 @ Wisconsin  
11/14 @ Indiana  
11/21 IOWA

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Hawaii; L, 17-3  
IOWA STATE; W, 53-29  
@ Memphis; W, 20-17  
HOUSTON; L, 45-43  
@ Michigan State; L, 31-10  
PURDUE; L, 59-43  
@ Penn State; L, 16-15  
@ Wisconsin; L, 22-21  
@ Michigan; L, 24-3  
OHIO STATE; L, 31-3  
INDIANA; W, 24-12  
@ Iowa; L, 31-0

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Cockerham (Jr., 6-1, 207) A. Persby (So., 6-3, 232)  
RB: T. Hamner (Jr., 6-0, 185)\* B. Evans (Jr., 5-9, 211)  
WR: L. Levenson (Jr., 6-0, 177) S. Dettman (Jr., 5-11, 171)  
WR: L. Hutton (Sr., 5-9, 166) A. Henderson (So., 5-7, 162)  
TE: A. Hass (Jr., 6-5, 267)\* T. Duerr (Sr., 6-4, 269)  
LT: A. Haayer (So., 6-6, 284) K. Hoffarth (Jr., 6-5, 286)  
LG: J. Albrecht (Sr., 6-5, 319)\* V. Xanthos (So., 6-4, 303)  
C: B. Hamilton (So., 6-5, 273)\* J. Zander (Jr., 6-5, 290)  
RG: T. Socha (Sr., 6-6, 301)\* R. Roth (Fr., 6-3, 304)  
RT: P. Hau (Jr., 6-6, 292)\* T. von Behren (Jr., 6-5, 281)

### DEFENSE

DE: M. Cernoch (So., 6-6, 271) J. Michaels (Jr., 6-4, 261)  
DT: A. Richard (Sr., 6-3, 285)\* D. Russ (Jr., 6-1, 293)  
DT: J. Rawlings (Jr., 6-5, 281)\* M. Anderle (Fr., 6-6, 303)  
DE: R. Smith (Sr., 6-2, 255)\* D. Dehnicke (Fr., 6-3, 244)  
LB: P. Williams (Sr., 6-3, 242)\* C. Poole (So., 6-3, 230)  
LB: S. Hoffman (So., 6-3, 238)\* J. Hall (So., 6-3, 229)  
LB: B. Mezera (So., 6-4, 240) L. Braaten (Jr., 6-4, 236)  
CB: J. Wyrick (Jr., 5-9, 172)\* F. Rodgers (Jr., 5-9, 169)  
CB: C. Scruggs (Sr., 5-9, 177)\* T. Graham (So., 5-10, 186)  
FS: K. Dimmy (Sr., 6-1, 169) W. Middlebrooks (Fr., 6-2, 197)  
SS: T. Carter (Jr., 5-9, 183)\* T. Grate (Sr., 5-11, 195)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: A. Bailey (Sr., 5-10, 196)\* R. Rindels (Jr., 5-11, 170)  
P: R. Rindels (Jr., 5-11, 170)\* S. Kempf (Jr., 6-1, 190)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Junior Ryan Rindels became the first Gopher since 1986 to average more than 40 yards per punt last season.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.gophersports.umn.edu



## NORTHWESTERN Facts

**Coach:** Gary Barnett, 32-26-1; 40-47-2 overall  
**'97 Record:** 5-7 (3-5 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Ryan Field, Evanston, Ill. (47, 129; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 13 (5 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Eric Collier, SS (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Paul Janus, OL; Brian Musso, WR; Nate Strikwerda, OL

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Mark Broxterman, Sr., 1-2-6 yards  
**Rushing:** Brian Marshall, So., 42 carries, 150 yards, 1 TD  
**Receiving (Catches):** Joel Stuart, Sr., 23, 1 TD  
**Receiving (Yards):** John Burden, Sr., 303  
**Tackles:** Barry Gardner, Sr., 174  
**Sacks:** Thor Schmidt, Sr., 2  
**Interceptions:** Gardner and Josh Barnes, Sr., 2  
**Punting:** None  
**Kicking:** Brian Gowins, Sr., 20-27 FGs (long 52); 19-22 PATs  
**Scoring:** Gowins, 79 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 UNLV  
 9/12 DUKE  
 9/19 @ Rice  
 9/26 @ Wisconsin  
 10/3 ILLINOIS  
 10/10 @ Iowa  
 10/17 MICHIGAN  
 10/24 OHIO STATE  
 10/31 @ Michigan State  
 11/7 PURDUE  
 11/14 @ Penn State  
 11/21 @ Hawaii

### 1997 RESULTS

OKLAHOMA; W, 24-0  
 @ Wake Forest; L, 27-20  
 DUKE; W, 24-20  
 RICE; L, 40-34  
 @ Purdue; L, 21-9  
 WISCONSIN; L, 26-25  
 @ Michigan; L, 23-6  
 MICHIGAN ST.; W, 19-17  
 @ Ohio State; L, 49-6  
 PENN STATE; L, 30-27  
 @ Illinois; W, 34-21  
 IOWA; W, 15-14

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: G. Hoffman (So., 6-6, 233) J. MacArthur (Sr., 6-2, 198)  
 RB: T. Gooch (Sr., 5-10, 180) B. Marshall (So., 5-10, 202)  
 FB: M. Hartl (Sr., 6-2, 235)\* L. Brown (Sr., 5-11, 226)  
 WR: D. Bates (Sr., 6-2, 211) J. Barnes (Sr., 5-11, 178)  
 WR: J. Burden (Sr., 6-4, 209) T. Johnson (So., 5-11, 177)  
 TE: J. Tant (Jr., 6-4, 242)\* J. Cerasini (Sr., 6-4, 267)  
 LT: B. LaBelle (Sr., 6-7, 311)\* J. Collins (So., 6-9, 286)  
 LG: B. Hemmerle (Sr., 6-7, 319)\* N. Carroll (Jr., 6-6, 296)  
 C: T. Garner (Jr., 6-3, 276)\* A. Fay (So., 6-4, 301)  
 RG: L. Clelland (So., 6-5, 301) M. Souza (So., 6-6, 277)  
 RT: B. LaBelle (Sr., 6-7, 311) L. Brockmeier (So., 6-7, 274)

### DEFENSE

DE: D. Missouri (Jr., 6-5, 244) S. Simon (So., 6-4, 252)  
 DT: J. Dyra (Sr., 6-4, 285) M. Lapadula (Sr., 6-2, 270)  
 DT: B. Russ (Sr., 6-3, 281)\* D. Hodge (Jr., 6-3, 288)  
 DE: T. Schmidt (Sr., 6-3, 248) G. Taylor (Sr., 6-5, 254)  
 LB: B. Gardner (Sr., 6-1, 245)\* C. Emmerich (Jr., 6-4, 246)  
 LB: P. Letts (Jr., 6-3, 240)\* J. Kolar (Sr., 6-4, 242)  
 LB: K. Buck (Sr., 6-1, 223)\* N. Harris (So., 6-3, 213)  
 CB: H. Blackmon (Jr., 6-1, 210)\* J. Barnes (Sr., 5-11, 178)  
 CB: F. Wilkerson (Sr., 6-2, 200)\* G. Conoway (Sr., 6-0, 178)  
 SS: K. Sanders (Sr., 5-11, 205) M. Jones (So., 5-11, 200)  
 FS: M. Nelson (Sr., 6-2, 212)\* R. Morton (Jr., 5-11, 216)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Gowins (Sr., 5-10, 170)\* T. Long (Jr., 6-2, 190)  
 P: J. Standing (So., 6-0, 196) E. Kosmowski (Jr., 6-6, 249)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Linebacker Barry Gardner has an outside shot at breaking the school record of 503 career tackles held by Chuck Kern (1977-1980), but to do so he will have to better the Big Ten-leading total of 174 he compiled last year.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.nusports.com



# Northwestern



D'WAYNE BATES-WR

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a starting quarterback.
- Give offensive line time to gel with three new starters.
- Get D'Wayne Bates, out with injury last year, the ball as often as possible.

A little bit of perspective can go a long way. Prior to 1995, five wins and a seventh-place Big Ten finish would have been cause for celebration in Evanston. But since last year's team was coming off two straight conference championships, expectations had been raised. When the season was over, everybody had to take a step back and reassess, including Gary Barnett.

However, after entertaining job offers, most notably from Texas, Barnett decided to stay put. Now he faces the job of bringing the Wildcats back, but blocking their way are some problems that need quick solutions. "Who's going to be our quarterback?" Barnett said. "How good will the young line be? How much improvement can we make in the secondary?"

### OFFENSE

Northwestern hasn't been the same since the departure of Steve Schnur, and the word that best describes the current quarterback situation is inexperience. The projected starter, Gavin Hoffman, started spring practice fifth on the depth chart and has never taken a collegiate snap. His backup, Missouri transfer Jon MacArthur, played a lot as a sophomore for the Tigers, but that was in another system at another school.

Hoffman will work behind a line that Barnett feels comfortable with, even though there are holes to fill. Returning starters Bryan LaBelle and Brian Hemmerle will anchor the left side and Ty Garner moves in at center.

Tyrone Gooch and Brian Marshall will handle the running back duties, and there is plenty of depth at fullback, with Matt Hartl getting the nod as starter. The most anticipated return will be that of receiver D'Wayne Bates, who broke his leg in the opener and missed the rest of the season. John Burden

and Teddy Johnson also will be in the mix. Tight end features two strong players in John Cerasini, who was the second-leading receiver last year, and Jay Tant, who started all but one game.

### DEFENSE

Overall, Barnett feels pretty good about his defense. The line lost three starters, including ends Keith Lozowski and Casey Dailey, but Thor Schmidt played considerably last season and should fill in nicely. Also back are Jeff Dyra, who had some starts last year, and Salem Simon, whom Barnett expects to be an impact player. Barry Gardner, an All-Big Ten selection who led the league with an impressive 174 tackles, is the leader of the defense at linebacker.

Kevin Buck and Anawn Jones shared a starting position last year and could end up joining Gardner, although Preston Letts could have something to say about that.

The Wildcats return three starters from the secondary, but the one they lose is major—second-team All-Big Ten strong safety Eric Collier. Barnett hopes to increase the productivity of this unit and expects another fine season from free safety Mike Nelson, a three-year starter who had 94 tackles, one interception and broke up 10 passes.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

All-Big Ten kicker Brian Gowins made 20 of 27 field goals last season to lead the league, and he enters his senior season as one of the Wildcats most prolific kickers. J.J. Standing played baseball in the spring and didn't practice, but he will compete with Eron Kosmowski for the punting job. John Barnes and D'Wayne Bates will be used on punt returns, and Teddy Johnson likely will be the primary kick returner.

### RECRUITING

Of Northwestern's 16 freshman, 11 are defensive players or played both ways in high school. "I can say without hesitation that this is the best defensive class that we have ever recruited," Barnett said. "I believe a number of them will see playing time as true freshmen." Leading the pack is defensive lineman Craig Albrecht, a top-100 player who chose the Wildcats over Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio State and Notre Dame and is expected to play right away. Expect to see linebackers Kevin Bentley, Chris Jones and Billy Silva this season as well as running back Sam Simmons, the USA Today Player of the Year in Kansas.

By Angelique S. Chengelis





DAVID BOSTON-WR

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Establish stability on the offensive line.
- Overcome mistakes of youth.
- Win the big games (i.e., beat Michigan).

The bad news for Ohio State: This is the first year in the '90s that the Buckeyes didn't have a player selected in the first round of the NFL Draft. The good news: See the bad news.

Say what? Here's the deal: Ohio State's '97 squad had as much blue-chip talent as ever. But for the first time in John Cooper's tenure as head coach, all of his best players return. And that's really good news for a team that has legitimate national championship aspirations. "We've got some first-round draft choices on our team, there's no question about that," said Cooper, whose team has won at least 10 games in each of the last three seasons. "I think we're going to be ranked pretty high."

Recent history is a bigger obstacle than any player departures. Forget the old history, that Ohio State is 1-8-1 against Michigan and 2-7 in bowl games under Cooper. The Buckeyes lost all three of their key matchups last season: at Penn State, at Michigan and versus Florida State in the Sugar Bowl. "We didn't win a big game last year," Cooper said. "We won 10 games, but we didn't win the showdown games." It's a point the coach has been hammering home to this year's team.

## OFFENSE

With Stanley Jackson gone, the two-quarterback system that's been in place since 1996 will finally give way to a one-man show starring Joe Germaine. The 6-2, 195-pound Germaine had always been the better pure passer of the two. After passing for 3,040 yards in two seasons of split time, he has a chance to post some big numbers at the helm of a potent attack.

In David Boston and Dee Miller, Germaine has perhaps the best receiving combo in the nation at his disposal. Boston and Miller combined last season for 131 recep-

tions and 1,951 yards. Throw in tight end John Lumpkin (a former basketball player following in the footsteps of Rickey Dudley) and blue-chip sophomore receivers Ken-Yon Rambo and Vaness Provitt, and the Buckeyes have the makings of an aerial juggernaut.

The loss of tailback Pepe Pearson only means that electrifying junior Michael Wiley will get more carries. Wiley, a threat to go all the way any time he touches the ball, averaged 5.6 yards per carry in '97. He's backed up by veteran Joe Montgomery and sophomore future star Derek Combs.

The question is up front, where Ohio State was unstable last year. Four starters are back, but Cooper said that aside from All-America guard Rob Murphy, all the jobs are up for grabs.

## DEFENSE

The Buckeyes finished second in the nation last year in scoring defense (11.6 points per game), and the nine starters who return are spearheaded by perhaps the premier defender in college football, linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer. A monster in the middle of Ohio State's defense, the '97 Butkus Award winner already has 36 tackles for loss, 14 sacks and 6 INTs in two seasons.

The scary thing is that Katzenmoyer, a tackling machine, isn't even the team's top returning tackler. That title goes to cornerback Antoine Winfield, who also happens to be one of the best cover guys in college football. With Winfield and safeties Gary Berry and Damon Moore, Ohio State boasts as good a secondary as there is in the nation.

One of the rising stars of the Buckeyes' defense is not a returning starter. Linebacker Na'il Diggs, who had six sacks as a freshman last year, is a player Cooper identified as a potential all-star.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

While kicker Dan Stultz was a bit inconsistent as a freshman last year, he's expected to blossom—the Buckeyes received a taste of his potential last season when he connected on a 55-yarder. Punter Brent Bartholomew returns after earning All-Big Ten honors a year ago.

## RECRUITING

Ohio State signed one quarterback—Steve Bellisari—who follows both his father and brother to the program. Cooper has compared running back Jonathan Wells to Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George. Defensive lineman Ryan Pickett has a chance to contribute right away, as does linebacker James Cotton, a 6-4, 250-pound JUCO transfer.

By Craig Ellenport

## OHIO STATE Facts

**Coach:** John Cooper, 11th year, 86-32-4; 168-72-6 overall  
**'97 Record:** 10-3 (6-2 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Ohio Stadium, Columbus, Ohio (89,841; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 19 (8 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Eric Gohlstein, OT (1st-team All-Big Ten); Pepe Pearson, RB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Joe Germaine, Sr., 129-210-1,847 yards, 16 TDs, 9 INTs  
**Rushing:** Michael Wiley, Jr., 105 carries, 588 yards, 6 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** David Boston, Jr., 73, 14 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Dee Miller, Sr., 981  
**Tackles:** Antoine Winfield, Sr., 100  
**Sacks:** Na'il Diggs, So., 6  
**Interceptions:** Ahmed Plummer, Jr., and Gary Berry, Jr., 5  
**Punting:** Brent Bartholomew, Sr., 42.5 avg.  
**Kicking:** Dan Stultz, So., 15-25 FGs (long 55); 47-48 PATs  
**Scoring:** Stultz, 92 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ West Virginia  
 9/12 TOLEDO  
 9/19 MISSOURI  
 10/3 PENN STATE  
 10/10 @ Illinois  
 10/17 MINNESOTA  
 10/24 @ Northwestern  
 10/31 @ Indiana  
 11/7 MICHIGAN ST.  
 11/14 @ Iowa  
 11/21 MICHIGAN

## 1997 RESULTS

WYOMING; W, 24-10  
 BOWLING GREEN; W, 44-13  
 ARIZONA; W, 28-20  
 @ Missouri; W, 31-10  
 IOWA; W, 23-7  
 @ Penn State; L, 31-27  
 INDIANA; W, 31-0  
 NORTHWESTERN; W, 49-6  
 @ Michigan State; W, 37-13  
 @ Minnesota; W, 31-3  
 ILLINOIS; W, 41-3  
 @ Michigan; L, 20-14  
 vs. Florida State; L, 31-14\*

\*Sugar Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Germaine (Sr., 6-2, 195) M. Garcia (Sr., 6-4, 215)  
 RB: M. Wiley (Jr., 6-0, 190) D. Combs (So., 6-2, 180)  
 FB: M. Keller (Jr., 6-0, 230)\* S. Penny (So., 6-2, 215)  
 WR: D. Boston (Jr., 6-3, 206)\* V. Provitt (So., 6-3, 190)  
 WR: D. Miller (Sr., 6-1, 190)\* K. Rambo (So., 6-2, 180)  
 TE: J. Lumpkin (Sr., 6-8, 260)\* S. Wisniewski (Jr., 6-5, 265)  
 LT: T. Walter (So., 6-5, 305)\* J. Massey (Fr., 6-5, 280)  
 LG: R. Murphy (Jr., 6-5, 300)\* J. Kelley (So., 6-6, 290)  
 C: K. Murphy (Jr., 6-4, 290)\* D. Elford (Jr., 6-4, 300)  
 RG: B. Gilbert (Jr., 6-5, 295)\* T. Hopkins (So., 6-5, 315)  
 RT: B. Burris (Sr., 6-6, 295) H. Fleming (So., 6-7, 300)

### DEFENSE

DE: R. Bailey (So., 6-3, 255)\* T. Eisenhard (Jr., 6-7, 265)  
 DT: C. Wayne (So., 6-3, 270) R. Homa (So., 6-2, 260)  
 DT: J. Brown (So., 6-7, 265)\* P. Long (So., 6-5, 330)  
 DE: M. LaVrre (Jr., 6-3, 240)\* J. Wilson (Sr., 6-3, 255)  
 LB: N. Diggs (So., 6-4, 230) C. Bullard (So., 6-3, 220)  
 LB: A. Katzenmoyer (Jr., 6-4, 260)\* C. Kirk (Jr., 6-3, 235)  
 LB: J. Rudzinski (Sr., 6-1, 220)\* J. Ott (Fr., 6-4, 235)  
 CB: A. Winfield (Sr., 5-9, 189)\* D. Mitchell (So., 6-1, 185)  
 CB: A. Plummer (Jr., 6-1, 190)\* R. Steele (So., 5-11, 160)  
 SS: D. Moore (Sr., 5-11, 200)\* C. McClellion (Sr., 5-11, 180)  
 FS: G. Berry (Jr., 6-0, 2-5)\* P. King (Jr., 6-4, 210)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Stultz (So., 6-0, 185)\* A. Stamp (Sr., 6-1, 180)  
 P: B. Bartholomew (Sr., 6-2, 205)\* D. Stultz (So., 6-0, 185)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

•With 21 career touchdown receptions in just two seasons, receiver David Boston needs seven more TD grabs to break Cris Carter's school record.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.ohiostatebuckeyes.com



# PENN STATE Facts

**Coach:** Joe Paterno, 33rd year, 298-77-3

**'97 Record:** 9-3 (6-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Beaver Stadium, University Park, Pa. (93,967; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 12 (5 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Curtis Enis, RB (1st-team All-Big Ten); Joe Jurevicius, WR (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Aaron Collins, LB (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Jim Nelson, LB (2nd-team All-Big Ten); Mike McQueary, QB; Matt Fornadel, DT

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Thompson, Sr., 9-27-103 yards

**Rushing:** Aaron Harris, Sr., 42 carries, 271 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Chafie Fields, Sr., 23, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Fields, 374

**Tackles:** Shawn Lee, Sr., 58

**Sacks:** Courtney Brown, Jr., 6

**Interceptions:** Lee, 2

**Punting:** Pat Pidgeon, Sr., 42.6 avg.

**Kicking:** Travis Fomey, Jr., 6-8 FGs (long 47),

41-44 PATs

**Scoring:** Fomey, 59 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 SOUTHERN MISS  
9/12 BOWLING GREEN  
9/19 @ Pittsburgh  
10/3 @ Ohio State  
10/10 @ Minnesota  
10/17 PURDUE  
10/31 ILLINOIS  
11/7 @ Michigan  
11/14 NORTHWESTERN  
11/21 @ Wisconsin  
11/28 MICHIGAN STATE

## 1997 RESULTS

PITTSBURGH; W, 34-17  
TEMPLE; W, 52-10  
@ Louisville; W, 57-21  
@ Illinois; W, 41-6  
OHIO STATE; W, 31-27  
MINNESOTA; W, 16-15  
@ Northwestern; W, 30-27  
MICHIGAN; L, 34-8  
@ Purdue; W, 42-17  
WISCONSIN; W, 35-10  
@ Michigan State; L, 49-14  
vs. Florida; L, 21-6\*

\*Citrus Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

QB: K. Thompson (Sr., 6-5, 210) R. Casey (Jr., 6-1, 203)  
RB: C. Mitchell (Sr., 6-0, 196) C. Eberly (Sr., 5-11, 210)  
FB: A. Cleary (Sr., 6-1, 251) A. Harris (Sr., 5-11, 237)  
WR: T. Pettigrew (Jr., 6-0, 198) S. Crenshaw (So., 6-2, 201)  
WR: C. Fields (Sr., 6-1, 193)\* J. Nastasi (Sr., 5-11, 187)  
TE: B. Scioli (Sr., 6-3, 265) C. Brown (Sr., 6-4, 263)  
LT: J. Blick (Jr., 6-6, 310)\* J. Caruso (So., 6-4, 305)  
LG: E. Cole (Sr., 6-5, 296)\* J. Mitchell (So., 6-4, 277)  
C: R. Stankewicz (Sr., 6-3, 281)\* F. Spano (Jr., 6-1, 293)  
RG: G. Tincher (Sr., 6-2, 292) R. Fagan (Sr., 6-7, 289)  
RT: K. McKenzie (So., 6-7, 305)\* R. Fagan (Sr., 6-7, 289)

## DEFENSE

DE: J. Kurpeikis (Jr., 6-4, 234) E. Sturdiven (Jr., 6-2, 225)  
DT: D. Fleischhauer (Sr., 6-3, 268) I. Bell (Jr., 6-4, 295)  
DT: G. Ranson (So., 6-2, 283) R. Bolinsky (Jr., 6-1, 282)  
DE: C. Brown (Jr., 6-5, 251)\* M. Kiemeier (Jr., 6-6, 250)  
LB: A. Gatten (Jr., 6-1, 222) E. Sturdiven (Jr., 6-2, 225)  
LB: B. Short (Jr., 6-3, 243)\* M. Daniels (Sr., 6-0, 225)  
LB: M. Morrison (Jr., 6-1, 237) L. Arrington (So., 6-3, 225)  
CB: A. King (Jr., 5-8, 172)\* J. Boyd (So., 6-0, 195)  
CB: D. Macklin (Jr., 5-9, 193)\* B. Jue (So., 6-1, 188)  
FS: S. Lee (Sr., 5-7, 175)\* A. Adams (Sr., 6-0, 189)  
SS: D. Fox (Jr., 5-11, 190) M. Joyner (Sr., 6-0, 192)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: T. Fomey (Jr., 5-9, 160)\* R. Primanti (Jr., 5-11, 195)  
P: P. Pidgeon (Sr., 5-10, 190)\* T. Fomey (Jr., 5-9, 160)

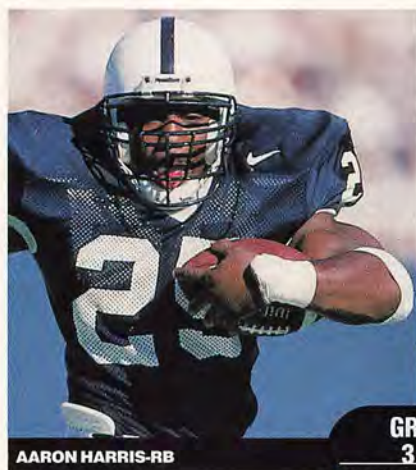
\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Joe Paterno is two wins away from becoming the sixth coach to reach the 300-victory plateau.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.psu.edu/sports



AARON HARRIS-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Settle on a new quarterback.
- Show improvement on defense, especially against the run.
- Find a way to win in Ann Arbor and Columbus.

Hold on a minute, Nittany Lions fans. Don't gripe about the way Penn State finished its 1997 campaign. Sure, they ended up—gasp—9-3, with losses to Michigan State in the final regular-season game and Florida in the Citrus Bowl after suffering a home loss to eventual national champ Michigan. But they did finish in a tie for second in the Big Ten with a roster that was a tad overrated to begin with, and they seem motivated to gain redemption this year. "This is not push the panic button, [time]," coach Joe Paterno said. "[But] I am never going to be satisfied with 9-3. We want to be right there at the top."

The top will be hard to reach this year, however, as the Nittany Lions break in another new quarterback while contending with a difficult schedule that features road games at Ohio State, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Although Penn State was praised for its balanced offense last season, the defense had its problems. The Nittany Lions were eighth in the league in total defense and ninth against the run last season, and only five starters are back from that unit.

## OFFENSE

Running back Curtis Enis, quarterback Mike McQueary, and wideout Joe Jurevicius are gone. The Lions also had to find replacements at center and guard, and when tackle Floyd Wedderburn announced he was burned out and would not return for a final year, another vacancy appeared. Paterno wants to be more physical along the line of scrimmage this season and run more effectively, but he'll have to get results from an untested group.

Senior Kevin Thompson, who appeared in nine games last year, and junior Rashard Casey, who played in three, are the contenders to replace McQueary. Thompson, who was McQueary's backup and has two

years of eligibility remaining, is 6-5, 210 pounds and a classic drop-back quarterback with a strong arm and good instincts. Casey, who has three years left, is a versatile athlete and might be the choice to create consistency and a foundation for the future.

Although Enis has moved on to the NFL, the Lions still have more than enough at tailback, where Cordell Mitchell and Chris Eberly will split the bulk of the time. Coming back from the season-ending knee injury he suffered against Minnesota is standout fullback Aaron Harris. Harris, who had a breakout game with 96 yards against Ohio State, should be ready by

the start of this season. The top returning wide receiver is senior Chafie Fields.

## DEFENSE

Linebacker is always the focal point of the Nittany Lions defense. The lone returning starter from last year's crew is middle linebacker Brandon Short, who had 55 tackles, including 12 for loss. The outside starters are likely to be Aaron Gatten and Mac

Morrison, although La Var Arrington will see plenty of time as well.

Senior safety Shawn Lee, a two year starter, is the leader of the secondary. He had 58 tackles and two interceptions last season. David Macklin, a junior cornerback, started the last five games and finished with 34 tackles and a team-high 11 pass break-ups.

Courtney Brown started every game last season as a sophomore and, playing in a cast over the final nine games because of a dislocated thumb, finished with 33 tackles, six sacks, three pass break-ups and a blocked field goal.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

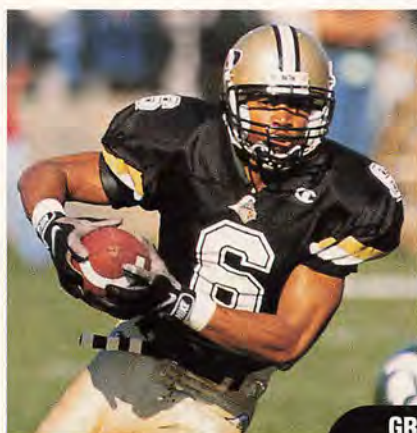
Punter Pat Pidgeon averaged a solid 42.6 yards on 55 punts last season, fourth best in the Big Ten. Placekicker Travis Fomey has a strong, accurate leg and made 6 of 8 field-goal attempts and 41 of 44 extra points. Eberly, who is competing to start at tailback, was fourth in the Big Ten in kickoff returns with a 24.1 average, and his 7.0 punt-return average placed him 10th.

## RECRUITING

The last three Nittany Lions classes were ranked by recruiting gurus among the nation's top five, but this freshman class barely made it onto some top-10 lists. Highlighting the group is All-American linebacker Shamar Finney, who had a school-record 466 tackles at Crest High in Shelby, N.C. Finney, a 6-3, 248-pounder, could challenge for a starting job.

By Angelique S. Chengelis





ISAAC JONES-WR

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The offensive newcomers must develop quickly.
- Rosevelt Colvin and LB Willie Fells must live up to their reputations.
- Play well in the season opener at USC to build confidence.

After directing the nation's second-best turnaround last season, Joe Tiller is faced with a new challenge in his second season as Purdue's coach. While last year's 9-3 team relied mostly on its offense to win games, this year's squad should be a force on defense. Eight starters return, led by senior end Rosevelt Colvin.

The situation is just the opposite on offense. Tiller has to replace seven starters, including All-Big Ten quarterback Billy Dicken, All-America receiver Brian Alford and running backs Kendall Matthews and Edwin Watson. Purdue's success in 1998 will depend largely on how quickly their replacements adjust to Tiller's complex passing game that often features four and five receivers spread across the field. "We need to overhaul the offense, but we feel good based on the players who will return," Tiller said. "We're anxious to see how our young players respond."

## OFFENSE

Dicken-to-Alford was fun for Purdue fans while it lasted. Now comes the tough part—life without the Big Ten's best passing combination as well as five other starters on offense. Drew Brees, who saw action in seven games last season, is the leading candidate to replace Dicken as the starting quarterback. Others in the competition include JUCO transfer David Edgerton and freshman Jim Mitchell.

Veteran receivers Isaac Jones, Vinny Sutherland, Chris Daniels, and Gabe Cox are not in Alford's class, but they have the kind of speed needed to excel in Tiller's offense.

Senior Eric Haddad and JUCO transfer J. Crabtree are faced with the challenge of trying to replace Matthews and Watson at running back. Tiller signed four highly acclaimed prep running backs who could also see time immediately. Steve Ennis, Montrell Lowe and

Sedrick Brown come to Purdue out of Texas, and Jeremy Thomas is a Florida recruit.

The new skill players will operate behind a line that returns just two starters: center Jim Niedrach and guard Chukky Okobi.

## DEFENSE

This unit improved steadily last season after two dreadful performances in 1995 and 1996. Both Colvin and middle linebacker Willie Fells have All-America potential. Colvin, a three-year starter, ranked fourth in the Big Ten last season with 12.5 sacks and just missed tying Purdue's single-season record of 13. He'll be joined by returning starters David Nugent and Chukie Nwokorie in what will be the most experienced part of the Boilermakers defense.

Fells ranked third in the Big Ten with 131 tackles last season, and had at least 10 tackles in seven games, including four of the last five. Outside linebacker Willie Burroughs moved from the secondary last season and finished with 75 tackles. Burroughs leads the team with 31 career starts, but his size (5-11, 200) may cost him a starting position. Mike Rose missed spring practice after being suspended indefinitely on a drunken driving charge. Rose, who had four interceptions and recovered two fumbles last season, could become an integral part of the linebacker unit should he make it back.

Three starters return in the secondary, led by versatile cornerback Mike Hawthorne and free safety Adrian Beasley, the most valuable defensive player in Purdue's 33-20 Alamo Bowl victory over Oklahoma State.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Junior Shane Ryan finished strongly and made four of his final five field goals last season, including two in the Alamo Bowl. Junior Danny Rogers returns after sharing the punting duties last season. Purdue is blessed with several dangerous return specialists. Chris Clopton ranked fifth in the Big Ten in kick returns last season with a 21.1 average, and Sutherland ranked sixth in the conference in punt returns with a 9.8 average as a freshman.

## RECRUITING

Purdue's success on the playing field carried over to recruiting. This year's class was ranked as high as No. 11 nationally by one scouting service. Of the 27 newcomers, seven are JUCO players and 19 were recruited for offense. "We're continuing to improve the speed on our team, but it has not been totally solved," Tiller said.

By Pat Hartly

## PURDUE Facts

**Coach:** Joe Tiller, 2nd year, 9-3; 48-33-1 overall  
**'97 record:** 9-3 (6-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Ross-Ade Stadium, Lafayette, Ind., (67,861; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (4 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Brian Alford, WR (1st-team All-American); Billy Dicken, QB (1st-team All-Big Ten); Kendall Matthews, RB; Edwin Watson, RB; Jon Blackman, TE; Brian Nicley, C; Mark Fischer, OT; Leo Perez, DL

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Drew Brees, So., 19-43-232 yards, 1 INT

**Rushing:** Vinny Sutherland, So., 13 carries, 111 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Isaac Jones, Sr., 41, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Jones, 443

**Tackles:** Willie Fells, Jr., 131

**Sacks:** Rosevelt Colvin, Sr., 12.5

**Interceptions:** Adrian Beasley, Jr., Lamar Conrad, Jr., 4

**Punting:** Danny Rogers, Jr., 35.9 avg.

**Kicking:** Shane Ryan, Jr., 9-14 FGs (long 44), 45-47 PATs

**Scoring:** Ryan, 72

## 1998 SCHEDULE

8/30 @ USC\*  
9/12 RICE  
9/19 CENTRAL FLORIDA  
9/26 @ Notre Dame  
10/3 MINNESOTA  
10/10 @ Wisconsin  
10/17 @ Penn State  
10/24 ILLINOIS  
10/31 IOWA  
11/7 @ Northwestern  
11/14 @ Michigan State  
11/21 INDIANA

\*Pigskin Classic

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Toledo; L, 36-22  
NOTRE DAME; W, 28-17  
BALL STATE; W, 28-14  
NORTHWESTERN; W, 21-9  
@ Minnesota; W, 59-43  
WISCONSIN; W, 45-20  
@ Illinois; W, 48-3  
@ Iowa; L, 35-17  
MICHIGAN ST.; W, 22-21  
PENN STATE; L, 42-17  
@ Indiana; W, 56-7  
vs. Oklahoma St.; W, 33-20\*

\*Alamo Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: D. Brees (So., 6-1, 200) D. Edgerton (So., 6-2, 200)  
RB: J. Crabtree (Jr., 6-0, 205) E. Haddad (Sr., 6-1, 235)  
WR: I. Jones (Jr., 6-0, 195)\* V. Sutherland (So., 5-10, 185)  
WR: C. Daniels (Jr., 6-3, 205) G. Cox (Sr., 5-10, 190)\*  
WR: B. Lane (Jr., 5-10, 190) C. Jackson (So., 5-7, 163)  
TE: T. Stratton (Fr., 6-4, 227) C. Randolph (Fr., 6-5, 247)  
LT: M. Light (So., 6-4, 277) I. Allen (So., 6-4, 265)  
LG: A. Stames (Jr., 6-3, 286) B. Koppen (Fr., 6-6, 314)  
C: J. Niedrach (Jr., 6-3, 275)\* J. Kirkpatrick (Fr., 6-1, 274)  
RG: C. Okobi (So., 6-2, 310)\* P. VanderWeele (Sr., 6-5, 305)  
RT: B. Gorin (So., 6-6, 270) D. Cohen (Jr., 6-4, 290)

### DEFENSE

DE: C. Nwokorie (Sr., 6-3, 260)\* W. Moore (So., 6-2, 260)  
DT: B. Botts (So., 6-3, 255) M. Mitrione (Fr., 6-3, 281)  
DT: D. Nugent (Jr., 6-5, 280) D. Williams (Jr., 6-4, 300)  
DE: R. Colvin (Sr., 6-3, 245)\* C. Zurba (Sr., 6-3, 245)  
LB: L. Johnson (Sr., 6-0, 220) W. Burroughs (Sr., 5-11, 200)\*  
LB: W. Fells (Jr., 6-1, 215)\* N. Jones (Sr., 6-1, 245)  
LB: J. Loerzel (Fr., 6-3, 206) M. Rose (Jr., 6-1, 220)  
CB: M. Hawthorne (Jr., 6-3, 195)\* H. Bell (Sr., 5-11, 180)  
CB: D. Austin (Jr., 5-10, 175) L. Conrad (Jr., 5-10, 197)\*  
SS: A. Beasley (Jr., 6-0, 195)\* T. Stelma (Sr., 5-11, 185)  
SS: B. Smith (Fr., 6-3, 190) B. Gustin (Sr., 6-2, 195)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: S. Ryan (Jr., 5-9, 175)\* T. Dorsch (Fr., 6-6, 200)  
P: D. Rogers (Jr., 5-10, 203)\* T. Dorsch (Fr., 6-6, 200)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Purdue has a chance for back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since the 1979 and 1980 campaigns.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.purdue.edu/sports



## WISCONSIN Facts

**Coach:** Barry Alvarez, 8th year, 49-41-4

**'97 record:** 8-5 (5-3 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Camp Randall, Madison, Wis. (76,129; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 19 (9 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Donald Hayes, WR; Tony Simmons, WR; David Lysek, LB; Jason Suttle, CB; LaMar Campbell, CB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Mike Samuel, Sr., 141-254, 1,896 yards, 8 TDs, 13 INTs

**Rushing:** Ron Dayne, Jr., 263 carries, 1,457 yards

**Receiving (Catches):** Cecil Martin, Sr., 16

**Receiving (Yards):** Willie Austin, So., 148

**Tackles:** Donnel Thompson, Jr., 141

**Sacks:** Tom Burke, Sr., 9

**Interceptions:** Four players with 1

**Punting:** Kevin Stemke, So., 43.9

**Kicking:** Matt Davenport, Sr., 14-17 FGs (long 48); 31-33 PATs

**Scoring:** Dayne, 90

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ San Diego State  
9/12 OHIO UNIVERSITY  
9/19 UNLV  
9/26 NORTHWESTERN  
10/3 @ Indiana  
10/10 PURDUE  
10/17 @ Illinois  
10/24 @ Iowa  
11/7 MINNESOTA  
11/14 @ Michigan  
11/21 PENN STATE

### 1997 RESULTS

SYRACUSE; L, 34-0  
BOISE STATE; W, 28-24  
@ San Jose State; W, 56-10  
SANDIEGO STATE; W, 36-10  
INDIANA; W, 27-26  
@ Northwestern; W, 26-25  
ILLINOIS; W, 31-7  
@ Purdue; L, 45-20  
@ Minnesota; W, 22-21  
IOWA; W, 13-10  
MICHIGAN; L, 26-16  
@ Penn State; L, 35-10  
vs. Georgia; L, 33-6\*

\*Outback Bowl

# Wisconsin



RON DAYNE-RB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Keep Dayne healthy.
- Develop a reliable passing game.
- Become quicker on defense.

The Wisconsin Badgers are out to prove that size does matter. Junior tailback Ron Dayne stands 5-10 and weighs 263 pounds. Last season he ran for 1,457 yards despite missing the equivalent of nearly three games with injuries. Senior tackle Aaron Gibson stands 6-8 and weighs 390 pounds. His waist is 47½ inches and his thighs 33½ inches. He is the biggest player in

Badger history. He also is an All-American.

So it's no wonder that these Badgers are heavily favored to win next season, particularly after drawing a relatively light load. Wisconsin is favored to win all three non-conference games against San Diego State, Ohio University and UNLV. Northwestern, Purdue and Penn State have to play in Madison. The biggest challenge will come in the next-to-last game of the season when the Badgers travel to defending co-national champion Michigan on Nov. 14. Wisconsin played well in a 26-16 loss to Michigan last season.

### OFFENSE

Dayne is one of the best backs in the collegiate ranks, but he is not capable of winning games by himself. That was apparent in the Outback Bowl when Georgia crushed Wisconsin, 33-6.

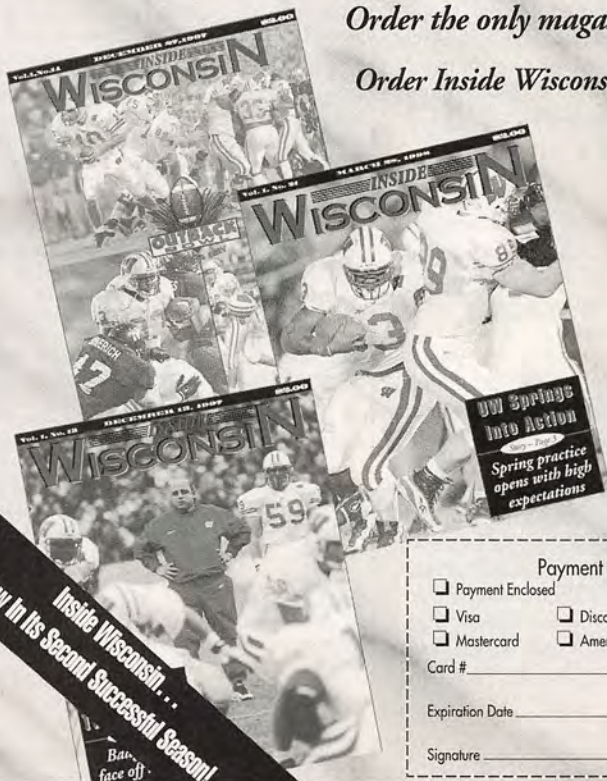
The Badgers must improve their passing attack to make a serious run at the Big Ten title. Quarterback Mike Samuel's best attribute is his experience. He has led Wisconsin to 16 wins and two bowl games as a starter. But he also threw 13 INTs against just eight TDs in 1997.

*continued on page 137*

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## PREDICTED STANDINGS

North

1. Nebraska
2. Kansas State
3. Missouri
4. Colorado
5. Kansas
6. Iowa State

South

1. Texas
2. Texas A&M
3. Oklahoma State
4. Texas Tech
5. Oklahoma
6. Baylor

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

### Offensive

#### Player of the Year

Ricky Williams,  
Texas

### Defensive

#### Player of the Year

Hannibal Navies,  
Colorado

### Newcomer

Frank Murphy,  
Kansas State

## 3 BIGGEST GAMES

### Sept. 19

Texas @ Kansas State

### Oct. 24

Missouri @ Nebraska

### Nov. 14

Nebraska @ Kansas State

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ricky Williams, Texas



# Big 12

## All-Big 12 Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: Michael Bishop	6-1/205	Sr.	Kansas St.
RB: Ricky Williams	6-0/225	Sr.	Texas
RB: De'Mond Parker	5-10/190	Jr.	Oklahoma
WR: Donnie Hart	6-1/194	Sr.	Texas Tech
WR: Darrin Chiaverini	6-2/205	Sr.	Colorado
TE: Andy Stensrud	6-8/283	So.	Iowa State
OL: Ryan Young	6-6/327	Sr.	Kansas St.
OL: R. Johannmeier	6-7/285	Jr.	Colorado
OL: Josh Heskey	6-3/290	Sr.	Nebraska
OL: Justin Glasgow	6-6/320	Sr.	Kansas
OL: Todd Niemeyer	6-5/310	Sr.	Missouri
PK: Kris Brown	5-10/205	Sr.	Nebraska

### [DEFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL: Kelly Gregg	6-0/286	Sr.	Oklahoma
DL: Damion McIntosh	6-4/290	Jr.	Kansas St.
DL: Mike Rucker	6-6/288	Sr.	Nebraska
DL: Montae Reagor	6-3/260	Sr.	Texas Tech
LB: Hannibal Navies	6-3/245	Sr.	Colorado
LB: Jeff Kelly	6-0/246	Sr.	Kansas St.
LB: Dat Nguyen	5-11/222	Sr.	Texas A&M
DB: Ralph Brown	5-9/180	Jr.	Nebraska
DB: Lamar Chapman	6-0/184	Jr.	Kansas St.
DB: Mike Brown	5-10/205	Jr.	Nebraska
DB: Harold Piersey	6-2/180	Sr.	Missouri
P: Shane Lechler	6-3/220	Jr.	Texas A&M

► Missouri QB Corby Jones is one of the league's most exciting talents and is primed to lead the Tigers to another Bowl berth.



# COLORADO Facts

**Coach:** Rick Neuheisel, 4th year, 25-10

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (3-5 conf.)\*

**Home Stadium:** Folsom Field, Boulder, Colo. (51,808, artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 11 (4 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Phil Savoy, WR (1st-team All-Big 12); Ryan Sutter, FS (1st-team All-Big 12); Melvin Thomas, OT (2nd-team All-Big 12); Ryan Black, SS (2nd-team All-Big 12); John Hessler, QB; Herchell Troutman, TB; Ron Merkerson, LB; Ryan Olson, NT;

\*NCAA revised record to 0-11 after discovering ineligible player on roster.

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Adam Bledsoe, So., 5-11-42 yards

**Rushing:** Dwayne Cherrington, Jr., 57 carries, 356 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Darrin Chiaverini, Sr., 35

**Receiving (Yards):** Chiaverini, 461

**Tackles:** Hannibal Navies, Sr., 130

**Sacks:** Nick Ziegler, Sr., 5.5

**Interceptions:** Marcus Washington, Sr., 3

**Punting:** Nick Pietsch, So., 38.8 avg.

**Kicking:** Jeremy Aldrich, Jr., 12-14 FGs (long 48), 29-32 PATs

**Scoring:** Aldrich, 65 points

## 1998 Schedule

9/5 vs. Colorado St.\*  
9/12 FRESNO STATE  
9/19 UTAH STATE  
9/26 BAYLOR  
10/3 @ Oklahoma  
10/10 KANSAS STATE  
10/17 TEXAS TECH  
10/24 @ Kansas  
11/7 @ Missouri  
11/14 IOWA STATE  
11/27 @ Nebraska

\*at Mile High Stadium

## 1997 Results

COLORADO ST.; W, 31-21  
@ Michigan; L, 27-3  
WYOMING; W, 20-19  
TEXAS A&M; L, 16-10  
@ Oklahoma St.; L, 33-29  
KANSAS; W, 42-6  
@ Texas; W, 47-30  
MISSOURI; L, 41-31  
@ Iowa State; W, 43-38  
@ Kansas State; L, 37-20  
NEBRASKA; L, 27-24

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Weisinger (Jr., 6-2, 215) A. Bledsoe (So., 6-4, 230)  
TB: M. Barnes (Sr., 5-11, 210) D. Cherrington (Jr., 5-10, 195)  
WR: J. Green (So., 6-2, 195) C. Cormier (Fr., 5-11, 195)  
WR: D. Chiaverini (Sr., 6-2, 205)\* E. McCready (So., 6-4, 200)  
WR: M. Stiggers (Jr., 5-7, 180)\* B. Toler (Jr., 6-0, 205)  
TE: T. Ashworth (So., 6-5, 265) M. Koon (Fr., 6-5, 255)  
LT: S. Cook (Jr., 6-7, 300) E. Huizhinh (Fr., 6-8, 270)  
LG: B. Bedell (Jr., 6-5, 295) K. Cullum (Jr., 6-5, 305)  
C: A. Reed (Sr., 6-2, 290)\* D. Herrick (Fr., 6-3, 270)  
RG: A. Gurude (Fr., 6-4, 300) C. Morgan (Jr., 6-3, 300)  
RT: B. Johannmeier (Jr., 6-7, 285)\* V. Rogers (Fr., 6-7, 325)

### DEFENSE

DE: I. Loper (So., 6-4, 240) F. Jones (Jr., 6-3, 250)  
DT: S. Jame (So., 6-6, 290) J. Bannan (Fr., 6-3, 290)  
DT: J. Warren (Jr., 6-4, 265) C. Moody (Sr., 6-5, 295)  
DE: B. McDonnell (So., 6-4, 265) R. Haas (Fr., 6-4, 250)  
LB: H. Navies (Sr., 6-3, 245)\* J. Chun (Sr., 6-0, 210)  
LB: T. Gregorak (So., 6-3, 250) T. Cade (Sr., 6-4, 245)\*  
LB: B. Southward (Sr., 6-4, 240) S. Nemeth (Fr., 6-2, 225)  
CB: D. Wheeler (Jr., 5-10, 175)\* M. Washington (Sr., 6-3, 210)\*  
CB: B. Kelly (So., 5-10, 175) M. Washington (Sr., 6-3, 210)  
SS: J. Sanders (So., 5-10, 180) A. Brooks (Fr., 6-0, 200)  
FS: R. Barnes (Jr., 6-0, 195) B. Chiaverini (Jr., 6-0, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Aldrich (Jr., 5-11, 170)\* D. Moore (Fr., 5-9, 170)  
P: N. Pietsch (So., 6-0, 170)\* J. Aldrich (Jr., 5-11, 170)

\*Denotes returning starter

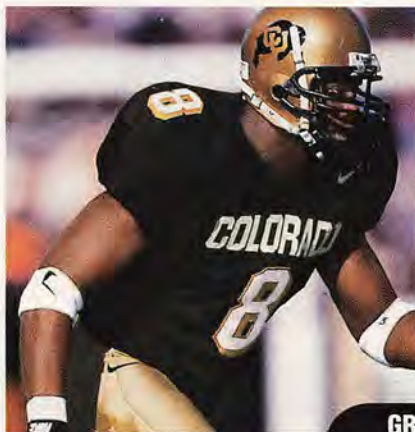
## MILESTONE

•The Buffaloes have beaten at least one ranked team in 10 straight seasons. Only Florida State, with 11, has a longer current streak.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.buffaloes.colorado.edu

# Colorado



HANNIBAL NAVIES-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Win big early to re-establish sense of dominance.
- Develop impact pass rusher.
- Get consistent play from offensive line to ease way for new quarterback.

What happened last year in the Flatirons? Colorado was expected to take serious aim at dislodging Nebraska as the Big 12's top bully and, if everything broke right, make a run at the national championship.

But the Buffaloes ended up 5-6, their first losing season since 1984. Is this a one-year nightmare or the start of a serious slide for a program that had established itself among the nation's elite in the previous decade? "Everybody in this program now realizes that you do not inherit success," coach Rick Neuheisel said. "You earn it. Everybody has to be accountable."

Few doubt Colorado has enough talent on hand to bounce back. At issue is whether the internal bickering that blackened last year can be reversed. "My question is, where was the emotion the rest of the year?" defensive end Nick Ziegler said after the Buffs closed last season by extending Nebraska before losing, 27-24. "Next year, people are going to get called out if they're not showing emotion."

## OFFENSE

This is Neuheisel's hallmark, but the Buffs sputtered far too often last year, particularly for a veteran unit. Now, Colorado has to break in a new quarterback. Neuheisel refers to both holdovers, Jeremy Weisinger and Adam Bledsoe, as "green gills." Mike Moschetti, a JUCO transfer from Mt. San Antonio College, impressed in spring practice and could see action before the season is through.

Elsewhere, the situation is brighter. Darrin Chiaverini, Marcus Stiggers and Javon Green provide any quarterback with a wealth of receiving talent. Dwayne Cherrington and Marlon Barnes could add a much-needed running boost. Cherrington, in particular, demonstrated game-breaker

potential last year in limited action.

The line, abused much of last year, remains iffy but should benefit from the experience it gained in '97. Tackles Shane Cook and Ryan Johannmeier must provide book-end protection for the new quarterback. "The offense needs to go back to being a consistent point producer, as it was in 1995 and 1996," said Neuheisel, whose teams finished 10-2 in each of those seasons.

## DEFENSE

For years, Colorado had big-name impact players to serve as its defensive foundation.

Now? Well, cornerbacks Damen Wheeler and Marcus Washington and linebacker Hannibal Navies are all-conference candidates. Other than that, it's pretty thin. "Our depth, in general, isn't where we want it to be," Neuheisel said. "Both redshirt and true freshmen will be counted on to make an immediate impact at certain positions."

That's not good.

The Buffaloes will choose from among Aaron Marshall, Jesse Warren and Sean Jarne to replace Ryan Olson and Vili Maumau at tackle. At end, Ziegler is back, but the search continues for a rush end capable of applying steady pressure. Sophomores Ian Loper and Brady McDonnell plus redshirt freshman Robert Haas will get a look.

Navies will be an impact player at weak-side linebacker, and the Buffs have high hopes for sophomore Ty Gregorak, who started the final three games last year in the middle. Brandon Southward saw time last year when since-departed Ron Merkerson was injured, and the dropoff was noticeable. The safeties are both new.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Ben Kelly ranked second in the nation with a 31.1-yard average on kickoff returns, but problems continue elsewhere. Junior Jeremy Aldrich hit 12 of 14 field goals, but he missed three extra points—which are confidence killers. "He just needs to develop a little more consistency," Neuheisel said. Punter Nick Pietsch, a former walk-on, looks great in practice but not in games. If that doesn't change, true freshman Mark Mariscal could get a look.

## RECRUITING

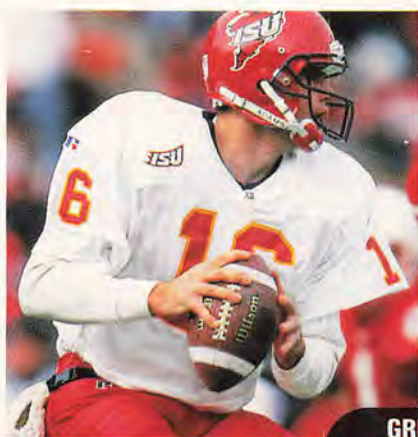
Even Neuheisel calls it a "sleeper" class. The only consensus top-100 player is linebacker Jason Sykes of Gardena, Calif. "When you're 5-6," Neuheisel said, "it's not like they're falling off trees to dive into your program. It's easier when you're 10-2."

By Bob Dutton





# Iowa State



TED BANDHAUER-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Early victory or two is vital for confidence.
- Defense needs to slow down opponents.
- Offensive line must give Todd Bandhauer better protection.

Take a listen to coach Dan McCarney. "I just feel really good about things," he said. "I feel good about the direction we are going right now and the upgrade of this football team that we have done through recruiting."

McCarney speaks with an earnest enthusiasm that can't help but be infectious until you remember that, hey, the Cyclones were 1-10 last year and are just 6-27 in his three years in Ames. And that recruiting class? It contains 18 junior college players. Usually that means a coach is putting full weight on the panic button. Not so, according to Mac. "This was not a plan of desperation," he said. "I don't want anyone to think, 'Here come the JUCOs, here comes the trouble.'"

Will the Cyclones be any better? Probably, because they can't get much worse. But if they climb any higher than fifth in the Big 12 North, McCarney ought to get consideration for coach of the year.

Still, the sales pitch is relentless. "You have to look at all the things we've gotten into to place so we can build this thing," he said. "Discipline. Community involvement. Academic accountability. Getting the crowds back and the attendance up. Exposure. We got on television seven times [last] year with a football team that wasn't very good. Facilities. The first two years here, I was recruiting out of the Holiday Inn and my home. Now, we're walking recruits into facilities that are darn good. We are getting caught up."

Ready to believe?

## OFFENSE

Quarterback Todd Bandhauer collected some remarkable stats last fall despite often finding himself in must-pass situations. Although he completed only 48.1 percent of his attempts, he racked up a Big 12-leading 2,514 yards. He also had a conference-best 20

TD passes and only nine interceptions.

When healthy, tailback Darren Davis proved to be a capable replacement for brother Troy, which is saying something. He gained 1,005 yards in just nine games. The Cyclones also bulked up on backs in recruiting.

The problem is everywhere else. Iowa State must replace its top three wide receivers and hope for substantial improvement from an again retooled and unproven line. Ben Beaudet could be a comer at center, although last year he played right guard. But he's it as far as starting experience, except for senior Charlie Bogwill and junior Marc Cortez, who alternated last season at center and are both coming off injuries. Bill Marsau arrived two years ago as a much-heralded recruit and could be ready to blossom at left tackle.

Andy Stensrud and Damian Gibson provide a solid tandem at tight end, but the wideouts are all new.

## DEFENSE

A year ago, the Cyclones yielded an average of 44.8 points a game. Among the 112 Division I-A teams, they ranked 101st or worse in rushing defense, pass-efficiency defense, scoring defense and total defense. Not surprisingly, McCarney targeted defense as the area needing the most immediate improvement, which is why 11 of the 18 JUCO signings were defensive players. Since most won't arrive until fall, the depth chart is up in the air, and while nine starters return, only rush end Chin Achebe, inside linebacker Dave Brcka and safety Dustin Avey seem certain to hold their jobs.

More than anything, the Cyclones need some run stoppers. They have high hopes for Robert Brannon, a transfer from San Bernardino (Calif.) CC.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

That Carl Gomez averaged 41.6 yards a punt as a freshman is a true accomplishment, considering he often encountered unblocked opponents charging toward his throat. He also spent more time trying to make touchdown-saving tackles than most punters do in four years. Senior Jamie Kohl could be one of the Big 12's top kickers. He only missed twice last year from closer than 50 yards.

## RECRUITING

If the JUCO experiment works half as well as McCarney hopes, the Cyclones could start clawing back toward respectability. If not, Iowa State could be in for another long season and McCarney could be looking for work.

By Bob Dutton

## IOWA STATE Facts

**Coach:** Dan McCarney, 4th year, 6-27

**'97 Record:** 1-10 (1-7 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Jack Trice Stadium, Ames, Iowa (43,000; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (4 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Tyrone Whatley, WR (1st-team All-Big 12); Ed Williams, WR; Matt Rahfeldt, G; Kurt Levetzow, OT  
\*Record revised to 2-9 (2-6) after Colorado was forced to forfeit victory by NCAA

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Todd Bandhauer, Sr., 180-374-2,514 yards, 20 TDs, 9 INTs

**Rushing:** Darren Davis, Jr., 212 carries, 1,005 yards, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Andy Stensrud, So., 17, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Stensrud, 277, 3 TDs

**Tackles:** James Reed, So., 71

**Sacks:** Reed, 6

**Interceptions:** Dustin Avey, So., 2

**Punting:** Carl Gomez, So., 41.6 avg.

**Kicking:** Jamie Kohl, Sr., 9-14 FGs (long 48), 23-24 PATs

**Scoring:** Kohl, 50 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 TEXAS CHRISTIAN  
9/12 @ Iowa  
9/19 BALL STATE  
9/26 TEXAS TECH  
10/3 @ Texas  
10/10 MISSOURI  
10/24 @ Kansas State  
10/31 @ Oklahoma  
11/7 NEBRASKA  
11/14 @ Colorado  
11/21 KANSAS

## 1997 RESULTS

OKLAHOMA STATE; L, 21-14  
@ Wyoming; L, 56-10  
@ Minnesota; L, 53-29  
IOWA; L, 63-20  
@ Missouri; L, 45-21  
@ Texas A&M; L, 56-17  
BAYLOR; W, 24-17  
@ Kansas; L, 34-24  
COLORADO; L, 43-38  
@ Nebraska; L, 77-14  
KANSAS STATE; L, 28-3

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: T. Bandhauer (Sr., 6-3, 232)\* S. Rosenfels (So., 6-4, 217)  
TB: D. Davis (Jr., 5-8, 190)\* J.J. Moses (So., 5-6, 170)  
FB: J. Heavens (So., 5-10, 219) H. Jackson (Jr., 6-0, 238)  
WR: M. Brantley (Jr., 6-0, 196) C. Anthony (So., 6-3, 196)  
WR: K. Wilson (Sr., 5-10, 187) D. Taylor (Fr., 6-1, 175)  
TE: D. Gibson (Sr., 6-4, 262)\* A. Stensrud (So., 6-8, 283)  
LT: B. Marsau (Jr., 6-5, 296) C. Hannen (Fr., 6-4, 300)  
LG: E. Bernal (Sr., 6-3, 293) A. Sansale (Fr., 6-3, 300)  
C: B. Beaudet (So., 6-4, 306)\* T.J. Tuetkan (Jr., 6-4, 275)  
RG: J. Rank (So., 6-4, 276) B. Donahue (Fr., 6-5, 277)  
RT: M. Howard (Fr., 6-6, 324) G. Cunningham (Fr., 6-5, 272)

### DEFENSE

DE: R. Hayward (So., 6-5, 240) J. Elmore (Jr., 6-2, 243)\*  
DT: J. Reed (So., 6-1, 265)\* R. Harklau (So., 6-4, 255)  
DT: A. Lee (Sr., 6-0, 270) M. Jackson (Fr., 6-1, 266)  
DE: C. Achebe (Sr., 6-1, 247)\* N. Tharpe (So., 6-5, 275)\*  
LB: J. Morse (So., 6-2, 228)\* K. King (Sr., 6-0, 230)  
LB: D. Brcka (Jr., 6-2, 243)\* L. Hadnot (Jr., 6-0, 237)  
LB: J. Beckom (Jr., 6-0, 210) A. Moser (Fr., 6-0, 222)  
CB: B. Ansley (So., 5-8, 172)\* R. Sloth (So., 5-8, 176)  
CB: D. Anderson (Sr., 5-8, 178)\* J. Waters (Jr., 6-2, 185)  
SS: D. Avey (So., 6-3, 200)\* D. Densmore (So., 5-10, 196)  
FS: K. Knighten (Sr., 5-11, 210)\* A. Bunk (Fr., 6-2, 191)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Kohl (Sr., 6-0, 208)\* C. Gomez (So., 6-2, 202)  
P: C. Gomez (So., 6-2, 202)\* J. Kohl (Sr., 6-0, 208)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Iowa State is 0-30-1 on the road since a 23-22 victory at Missouri on Nov. 2, 1991.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.iastate.edu/~athletics\_info





## KANSAS Facts

**Coach:** Terry Allen, 2nd year, 5-6; 80-32 overall

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (3-5 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Memorial Stadium, Lawrence, Kan. (50,250; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 14 (9 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Eric Vann, RB; Ron Warner, LB; Tony Blevins, FS; Maurice Gaddie, SS; Jason Harris, CB; Jason Thoren, LB; Dewey Houston, DE; Brett McGraw, NT

\*Record revised to 6-5 (4-4) after Colorado was forced to forfeit victory by NCAA.

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Zac Wegner, Jr., 66-144-970 yards, 4 TDs, 5 INTs

**Rushing:** David Winbush, So., 61 carries, 338 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Michael Chandler, Jr., 21

**Receiving (Yards):** Chandler, 311

**Tackles:** Patrick Brown, Sr., 86

**Sacks:** Hanson Caston, Sr., 4

**Interceptions:** Brown, Jamie Harris, Sr., 3

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Joe Garcia, So., 11-14 FGs (long 51),

18-20 PATs

**Scoring:** Garcia, 51 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 OKLAHOMA ST.  
9/12 @ Missouri  
9/19 ILLINOIS ST.  
9/26 @ Ala.-Birm.  
10/3 TEXAS A&M  
10/10 @ Baylor  
10/17 @ Nebraska  
10/24 COLORADO  
10/31 KANSAS STATE  
11/7 NORTH TEXAS  
11/21 @ Iowa State

### 1997 RESULTS

ALA.-BIRM.; W, 24-0  
TEXAS CHRISTIAN; W, 17-10  
MISSOURI; W, 15-7  
@ Cincinnati; L, 34-7  
OKLAHOMA; W, 20-17  
@ Texas Tech; L, 17-7  
@ Colorado; L, 42-6  
NEBRASKA; L, 35-0  
IOWA STATE; W, 34-24  
@ Kansas State; L, 48-16  
@ Texas; L, 45-31

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: Z. Wegner (Jr., 6-2, 230)\* A. Roberson (Sr., 5-11, 190)  
RB: D. Winbush (So., 5-7, 180) M. Bowles (Jr., 5-8, 185)  
FB: J. Macklin (Sr., 5-10, 220) C. Norris (Jr., 5-11, 235)  
WR: E. Patterson (So., 6-1, 200)\* M. Chandler (Jr., 5-11, 195)  
WR: T. Fulton (So., 5-10, 188)\* T. Hancock (So., 5-10, 170)  
TE: B. Gray (Sr., 6-3, 235)\* S. McDermott (Sr., 6-3, 240)  
LT: D. Dercher (Sr., 6-6, 285)\* C. Jarvis (So., 6-6, 305)  
LG: D. Hunt (Jr., 6-2, 305)\* S. Vang (Sr., 6-2, 285)  
C: C. Enneking (Jr., 6-3, 280)\* B. Schmidt (So., 6-1, 280)  
RG: J. Glasgow (Sr., 6-6, 320)\* M. Owen (So., 6-2, 315)  
RT: M. Lies (Sr., 6-2, 300)\* J. Hartwig (Fr., 6-5, 270)

#### DEFENSE

DE: J. Hanak (Jr., 6-6, 250) B. Coleman (Fr., 6-5, 300)  
NT: J. Williams (Jr., 6-2, 300) N. Dwyer (Fr., 6-3, 305)  
DE: D. Johnson (Jr., 6-4, 290)\* J. Redhage (Jr., 6-6, 265)  
LB: P. Brown (Sr., 5-11, 210)\* T. Bowers (So., 6-0, 220)  
LB: S. Bratten (Sr., 6-1, 235)\* A. LeClair (Fr., 6-6, 235)  
LB: J. J. Johnson (Sr., 6-2, 235) D. Lomax (So., 6-2, 225)  
LB: H. Caston (Sr., 6-2, 235) V. Bullock (So., 6-2, 230)  
CB: J. Harris (Sr., 5-10, 175)\* J. Cromerdie (Jr., 5-10, 170)  
CB: J. Wright (Jr., 5-9, 185) Q. Roe (Fr., 5-9, 180)  
SS: C. Coellner (Jr., 6-0, 205) F. Hammonds (Sr., 6-1, 205)  
FS: M. Allen (Sr., 5-10, 195) G. Erb (So., 6-0, 185)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Garcia (So., 6-0, 175)\* J. Antisdal (So., 6-0, 185)  
P: M. Tyler (Fr., 6-3, 215) J. Pelfanio (Jr., 6-1, 207)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Kansas is looking for its first 1,000-yard receiver in 12 years and only its third in its 60-year history.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.jayhawks.org



ZAC WEGNER-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Offensive line must protect Zac Wegner.
- Someone must replace Ron Warner's big-play ability on defense.
- New faces in the secondary must gel.

It's easy to view coach Terry Allen's first year at Kansas as a near-miss. The Jayhawks, at 5-6, came up just one or two plays short of playing in a bowl game.

True but, oh, how misleading. This is a team that had the nation's worst offense, by a large margin, at 241.4 yards a game. As a result, the defense, which early on displayed a knack for making big plays at key times, simply wore out down the stretch.

Now that defense must replace seven starters, including linebacker Ron Warner, who set a school record with 14.5 sacks, and free safety Tony Blevins, a four-year starter. "Sure, it would have been nice to win that sixth game," Allen said. "But maybe the reality of the situation is that we weren't quite good enough."

Reality doesn't appear to have changed all that much this year.

### OFFENSE

Nine starters return (is this good news or bad news?) including junior quarterback Zac Wegner, who gained some hard-earned experience after replacing the now-departed Matt Johnner at midseason. Wegner, at 6-2 and 230 pounds, is the prototypical dropback quarterback, a guy with a strong arm who requires protection—protection that all too often broke down last year.

Presumably, that protection will be better this time around. A year's experience should help, and the unit, which returns intact, improved as the season unfolded, particularly once senior Dan Dercher switched from defensive end to offensive tackle. Senior guard Justin Glasgow, 6-6 and 320, heads the group.

The Jayhawks still don't have a big back, which hurts both their pass protection and their short-yardage plays. Even so, David Winbush, 5-7 and 180, is one of those slippery, elusive types who often gains more yards

than a play seems to promise. "I definitely need to get bigger and work on my endurance," said Winbush, who missed time because of nagging injuries.

Allen's attack requires lots of receivers, and he didn't have enough of them last fall. This season should be better, especially if sophomore John Gordon returns after missing all of last year because of cardiovascular problems. Sophomore Termaine Fulton and redshirt freshman Harrison Hill arrived last year amid high expectations and each needs to contribute. Incoming recruit Byron Gasaway could also help. Plus, there's dependable

Michael Chandler, who led the team last year with 21 catches for 311 yards. "We're young, and next year should be much better," said Fulton, who had four touchdowns and averaged 30.2 yards for his 10 receptions. "We can get things going for us from the start."

### DEFENSE

Dion Johnson returns at one end and Jeremy Hanak looks like a good fit on the other side to replace Dewey Houston III. John Williams should be a solid nose tackle. If not, redshirt freshman Nate Dwyer could get an early chance to live up to big expectations.

Hanson Caston shifts from inside linebacker to Warner's old spot outside, a position that serves as the linchpin to the Jayhawks' entire defense. Steady Pat Brown returns on the other side. Steve Bratton and J.J. Johnson get first shot at the inside positions, but keep an eye on sophomore Dariss Lomax, who could be a real force if fully recovered from a torn knee ligament.

The secondary lost everyone but cornerback Jamie Harris. Michael Allen seems a good bet to replace Blevins at free safety.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Sophomore Joe Garcia arrived last year with a reputation for possessing a thunder foot despite his 6-0, 175-pound size. He responded by hitting 11 of 14 field goals, including a 51-yarder. He should only get better. Punting is a battle between redshirt freshman Matt Tyler and JUCO transfer Joey Pelfanio.

### RECRUITING

Allen snagged a pair of blue-chip recruits from the Kansas City suburbs in Gasaway and running back Henri Childs. Gasaway could play right away. The Jayhawks are also high on offensive lineman Justin Sands, 6-7 and 245, of Lawton, Iowa, and defensive end Algie Atkinson, 6-5 and 220, of Evanston, Ill.

By Bob Dutton





MICHAEL BISHOP-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Don't look past Texas and Colorado, possible land mines before the Nov. 14 game vs. Nebraska.
- Bishop must stay healthy.
- Establish a solid running game.

Kansas State is talking national championship. And before you laugh, take note—anything might be possible after watching coach Bill Snyder slowly construct a power from the ruins of utter devastation in the last decade.

The story is well-known to anyone who follows the Big 12, but it's worth repeating. When he arrived in 1989, Snyder inherited a program that had been 3-40-1 in the previous four years. Now, K-State is one of just six programs with at least nine victories in each of the last five seasons. The others are Nebraska, Ohio State, Penn State, Florida and Florida State. Not bad company.

The Wildcats return 20 starters from an 11-1 team that whipped Syracuse 35-18 in the Fiesta Bowl and finished seventh in the final USA Today/ESPN poll and eighth in *The AP*. All that in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year. So don't tell Snyder or anyone else associated with K-State what can't be done. "I've never thought what we've done is a fluke," Snyder said. "That's a media thing."

Of course, winning the national title means first winning the Big 12. And that means beating Nebraska for the first time since 1968. This year, the teams meet Nov. 14 in Manhattan for what could be the biggest game in K-State's 103 seasons.

## OFFENSE

Everything starts with senior quarterback Michael Bishop, a multi-talented playmaker who could blossom into a prime Heisman Trophy candidate after gaining a year's experience in Snyder's intricate offense. Last year, Bishop often got by on raw skill, and at times his lapses put a strain on Snyder's patience. But Bishop had a genuine coming-out party in the Fiesta Bowl, throwing for a career-high 317 yards and four touchdowns in addition to rushing for 73 yards and another score. "This is just the be-

ginning," he said afterward. "This win should set the tone for next season."

The only missing elements from last year's offense are left tackle Todd Weiner and center Kendyl Jacox. Working in their replacements—holdovers Brien Hanley, Jeremy Martin and Ryan Young—will be a priority.

Running back Eric Hickson, who had a team-high 750 yards last season, was granted another year of eligibility because he missed all of 1996 with a broken leg. Marlon Charles will also see action in the backfield, as will newcomer Frank Murphy, a lightning-quick transfer from Garden City (Kan.) JC.

K-State broke in a new receiving corps last year, with former JUCO transfers Darnell McDonald and Gavin Peries each averaging more than 21 yards a catch. They should get better, particularly as Bishop grows more comfortable in Snyder's attack.

## DEFENSE

The Wildcats return nine starters from a unit that racked up 50.5 sacks last year and ranked fourth in the nation in total defense. The linebacking corps might be the nation's best. Middleman Jeff Kelly, another of last year's JUCO transfers, is an absolute terror who benefits from having Travis Ochs and Mark Simoneau on his flanks.

Junior end Darren Howard had 11 sacks last year, and sophomore Monty Beisel shows signs of being another impact rusher. Damion McIntosh had six tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks from an interior line position.

Strong safety Jarrod Cooper and cornerback Dyshod Carter gained starting jobs last year as freshman and likely herald the next wave of top-flight defensive backs, a list that already includes All-Americans Chris Canty and Jaime Mendez in the 1990s.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Martin Gramatica was the Lou Groza Award winner after hitting 19 of 20 field goals in a comeback season. He missed 1996 because of a preseason knee injury. He already holds the school's career scoring record with 214 points.

James Garcia averaged 43.7 yards per punt a year ago and returns for his fourth season as a starter. David Allen averaged 13.4 yards on 30 punt returns.

## RECRUITING

The Wildcats signed just 16 players, but Murphy could create an immediate impact. Another JUCO transfer to watch is Quincy Morgan, who played with Bishop at Blinn and could provide a boost at wide receiver.

By Bob Dutton

## KANSAS STATE Facts

**Coach:** Bill Snyder, 10th year, 66-37-1

**'97 Record:** 11-1 (7-1 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** KSU Stadium, Manhattan, Kan. (42,000; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 20 (9 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Todd Weiner, OT (1st-team All-Big 12); Kendyl Jacox, C (1st-team All-Big 12); Jerome Evans, DT (2nd-team All-Big 12); Demetric Denmark, CB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Michael Bishop, Sr., 94-208-1,864 yards, 17 TDs, 9 INTs

**Rushing:** Eric Hickson, Sr., 176 carries, 750 yards, 9 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Darnell McDonald, Sr., 28, 9 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** McDonald, 642

**Tackles:** Jeff Kelly, Sr., 109

**Sacks:** Darren Howard, Jr., 11

**Interceptions:** Joe Bob Clements, Sr., Cephus Scott, Jr., Dyshod Carter, So., Travis Ochs, Sr., and Gerald Neasman, Sr., 1

**Punting:** James Garcia, Sr., 43.7 avg.

**Kicking:** Martin Gramatica, Sr., 19-20 FGs (long 55), 37-38 PATs

**Scoring:** Gramatica, 94 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 INDIANA STATE  
9/12 N. ILLINOIS  
9/19 TEXAS  
9/26 NE LOUISIANA  
10/10 @ Colorado  
10/17 OKLAHOMA ST.  
10/24 IOWA STATE  
10/31 @ Kansas  
11/7 @ Baylor  
11/14 NEBRASKA  
11/21 @ Missouri

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Northern Illinois; W, 47-7  
OHIO; W, 23-20  
BOWLING GREEN; W, 58-0  
@ Nebraska; L, 56-26  
MISSOURI; W, 41-11  
TEXAS A&M; W, 36-17  
@ Oklahoma; W, 26-7  
@ Texas Tech; W, 13-2  
KANSAS; W, 48-16  
COLORADO; W, 37-20  
@ Iowa State; W, 28-3  
Syracuse; W, 35-18\*

\*Fiesta Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: M. Bishop (Sr., 6-1, 205)\* J. Beasley (Jr., 6-1, 220)  
RB: E. Hickson (Sr., 5-8, 200)\* M. Charles (Sr., 5-9, 190)  
FB: B. Goolsby (Sr., 6-2, 250)\* B. Clark (Fr., 6-2, 215)  
WR: G. Peries (Sr., 6-1, 200)\* D. Robinson (Sr., 5-7, 160)  
WR: D. McDonald (Sr., 6-3, 195)\* T. Hackney (Sr., 6-1, 200)  
TE: J. Swift (Sr., 6-3, 250)\* S. Meier (So., 6-4, 245)  
LT: R. Cummings (So., 6-4, 265) D. McIntosh (Jr., 6-4, 290)  
LG: B. Hanley (Sr., 6-2, 325)\* A. Hotz (So., 6-2, 275)  
C: R. Cummins (So., 6-3, 260) M. Stephenson (So., 6-2, 260)  
RG: J. Martin (Sr., 6-4, 305)\* D. McIntyre (Sr., 6-2, 305)  
RT: R. Young (Sr., 6-6, 327)\* G. Reyes (So., 6-8, 275)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Clements (Sr., 6-3, 245)\* C. Johnson (So., 6-1, 240)  
DT: A. Rowe (Sr., 6-0, 290) D. Robinson (Fr., 6-1, 270)  
DT: D. McIntosh (Jr., 6-4, 290)\* N. McCoy (Jr., 6-4, 275)  
DE: D. Howard (Jr., 6-4, 240)\* M. Beisel (So., 6-3, 235)  
LB: T. Ochs (Sr., 6-3, 225)\* T. Litton (Jr., 6-2, 240)  
LB: J. Kelly (Sr., 6-0, 245)\* B. Leber (Fr., 6-3, 235)  
LB: M. Simoneau (Jr., 6-0, 230)\* T. Williams (So., 6-0, 230)  
CB: G. Neasman (Sr., 5-9, 180) J. Butler (Fr., 5-9, 155)  
CB: D. Carter (So., 5-10, 175)\* A. Beard (So., 5-8, 180)  
SS: J. Cooper (So., 6-1, 205)\* M. Proctor (Fr., 6-0, 195)  
FS: L. Chapman (Jr., 6-1, 175)\* C. Scott (Jr., 6-0, 190)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: M. Gramatica (Sr., 5-9, 170)\* J. Rheem (So., 6-1, 185)  
P: J. Garcia (Sr., 6-2, 195)\* J. McVey (Fr., 6-2, 255)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

•The Wildcats' current eight-game winning streak ranks second in school history to a 13-game run from 1909-10.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.ksu.edu/sportsinfo



# MISSOURI Facts



# Missouri

**Coach:** Larry Smith, 5th year, 18-26-1; 128-106-7 overall  
**'97 Record:** 7-5 (5-3 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Faurot Field, Columbia, Mo.  
 (62,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (6 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Mike Morris, OG (1st-team All-Big 12); Travis Biebel, OT (1st-team All-Big 12); Brock Olivo, TB (1st-team All-Big 12); Ernest Blackwell, FB; Donnell Jones, NT; Shad Criss, CB; and Scott Knickman, PK

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Corby Jones, Sr., 109-208-1,658 yards, 12 TDs, 7 INTs

**Rushing:** Jones, 203 carries, 887 yards, 14 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Eddie Brooks, Sr., 26, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Kent Layman, Jr., 556 yards, 4 TDs

**Tackles:** Harold Piersey, Sr., 104

**Sacks:** Marquis Gibson, Sr., 6

**Interceptions:** Piersey, 5

**Punting:** Vince Sebo, Jr., 39.4 avg

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** Jones, 84 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 BOWLING GREEN  
 9/12 KANSAS  
 9/19 @ Ohio State  
 10/3 NORTHWESTERN ST.  
 10/10 @ Iowa State  
 10/17 OKLAHOMA  
 10/24 @ Nebraska  
 10/31 @ Texas Tech  
 11/7 COLORADO  
 11/14 @ Texas A&M  
 11/21 KANSAS STATE

## 1997 RESULTS

E. MICHIGAN; W, 44-24  
 @ Kansas; L, 15-7  
 @ Tulsa; W, 40-21  
 OHIO STATE; L, 31-10  
 IOWA STATE; W, 45-21  
 @ Kansas State; L, 41-11  
 TEXAS; W, 37-29  
 @ Oklahoma St.; W, 51-50  
 @ Colorado; W, 41-31  
 NEBRASKA; L, 45-38  
 BAYLOR; W, 45-24  
 vs. Colorado St.; L, 35-24\*

\*Holiday Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: C. Jones (Sr., 6-1, 222)\* R. Douglas (So., 6-2, 201)  
 TB: D. West (Sr., 6-2, 222) R. Rhodes (So., 5-6, 174)  
 FB: R. Johnson (So., 6-0, 236) R. West (Jr., 6-0, 236)  
 WR: K. Wise (Jr., 6-3, 216) J. Dausman (So., 6-1, 184)  
 WR: K. Layman (Jr., 5-11, 187)\* C. Puyear (Jr., 6-1, 179)  
 TE: J. Stueve (Sr., 6-3, 239) E. Brooks (Sr., 6-1, 233)\*  
 LT: C. Meredith (Sr., 6-5, 296) J. Hellerstedt (Fr., 6-4, 300)  
 LG: M. Valadez (Jr., 6-2, 288) C. Smith (Sr., 6-4, 284)  
 C: R. Riti (Jr., 6-3, 283)\* M. Hayes (Fr., 6-3, 298)  
 RG: C. Heimburger (Jr., 6-3, 313)\* A. Cole (Fr., 6-4, 306)  
 RT: T. Niemeyer (Sr., 6-5, 310)\* A. Crittendon (Fr., 6-5, 289)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Wyatt (Sr., 6-4, 275)\* P. Mingucci (Jr., 6-2, 266)  
 DT: J. Marriott (Jr., 6-5, 288)\* D. Webber (So., 6-2, 314)  
 DT: S. Erickson (Jr., 6-4, 280)\* M. Gavins (Fr., 6-6, 300)  
 DE: T. Mittelstadt (Sr., 6-6, 263) D. McCamy (So., 6-3, 242)  
 LB: M. Gibson (Sr., 6-2, 225)\* D. Whittington (So., 6-6, 227)  
 LB: P. Duffy (So., 6-1, 236) D. Revard (Fr., 6-3, 232)  
 LB: B. Odom (Jr., 6-0, 219)\* P. Schmanke (Jr., 6-0, 207)  
 CB: C. Posey (Jr., 6-0, 202) A. Roberson (So., 5-10, 172)  
 CB: W. Perkins (Sr., 6-1, 189)\* R. Potter (Sr., 5-10, 182)  
 SS: C. Easter (Sr., 5-10, 188)\* H. Hendricks (So., 6-3, 207)  
 FS: H. Piersey (Sr., 6-2, 179)\* J. Jones (So., 5-11, 189)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: T. Geiger (Jr., 5-11, 177) K. Deptula (Fr., 5-10, 167)  
 P: V. Sebo (Jr., 6-1, 228)\* J. Smith (Sr., 5-9, 170)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Corby Jones (12 TD passes, 14 TDs rushing in '97) needs 10 TDs to set a new Missouri career mark.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.missouri.edu/~icawww/index.html



CORBY JONES-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Must get more consistency out of Corby Jones.
- Win early—the tougher part of the schedule kicks in over the second half.
- The defense must give up fewer points.

Missouri began looking toward this season back in December, just after the disappointment of a 35-24 loss to Colorado State in the Holiday Bowl. "It will take us a while to get over this game," wide receiver Kent Layman said that night. "But I think it will be easy to focus [next year], knowing what we can accomplish, knowing what we did this year."

Well, next year is here, and Missouri has reason for optimism. For the first time since 1984, the Tigers head into the fall on the heels of a winning record and a bowl appearance. The previous 14 years saw four coaches compile a dismal 41-89-5 record.

"Bowl games are an extra," coach Larry Smith said, recalling the postseason loss. "We still got the sundae. We just didn't get the cherry on top. I'm proud of our players. They gave our football program something they haven't had in a long, long time."

The question, however, is whether last season truly marked the start of a turnaround or was just a fluke. The answer might not be immediately apparent because the schedule packs most of its wallop in late October and November.

## OFFENSE

The Tigers believe they have a genuine Heisman Trophy candidate in quarterback Corby Jones, who earned all-conference honors over Nebraska's Scott Frost and Kansas State's Michael Bishop after passing for 1,658 yards and 12 touchdowns and running for 887 yards and another 14 scores. One thing is certain: He doesn't lack for confidence. "If it comes down to the wire," Jones said, "and somebody has to have the ball, well, it might as well be me."

Still, a word of caution. Jones' multiple mistakes played a major role in an early upset loss at Kansas, and he was thoroughly miserable a few weeks later against Kansas State.

The Tigers need him in top form to make another bowl trip.

Among Big 12 teams, only Nebraska had a better line last year than the Tigers, who return three starters in center Rob Riti, guard Craig Heimburger and tackle Todd Niemeyer. The left side will be new, but tackles Chris Meredith and Jeff Hellerstedt and guards Cliff Smith and Michael Valadez appear to be capable candidates. Smith started six games last year at right guard before being replaced by Heimburger.

Tailback Brock Olivo departs after setting the school's career rushing record, but Devin West and Ricardo Rhodes saw time last year and provide a solid tandem. Jones also has his top two receivers back in Layman and tight end Eddie Brooks. The position could use a boost, though, which might come from sophomore John Dausman.

## DEFENSE

Free safety Harold Piersey leads a group of eight returning starters that must improve if the Tigers are to continue their upswing. Missouri yielded 30.2 points a game last year and held only one team—offensively inept Kansas—to fewer than 21.

The Tigers need to find a run stopper from among Justin Wyatt, Jeff Marriott, Pat Mingucci and Steve Erickson. They also need a big season from senior rush backer Marquis Gibson, who had a team-high six sacks last year at defensive end.

Gibson was shifted, along with Daryl Whittington, because of personnel shortages at linebacker. Also, as Smith noted, "If our defense is going to improve, then we have to improve at linebacker." The Tigers do return junior Barry Odom, who ranked second on the team in tackles last year with 103. But Piersey was first at 104, and it's never a good sign when your free safety is your top tackler.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

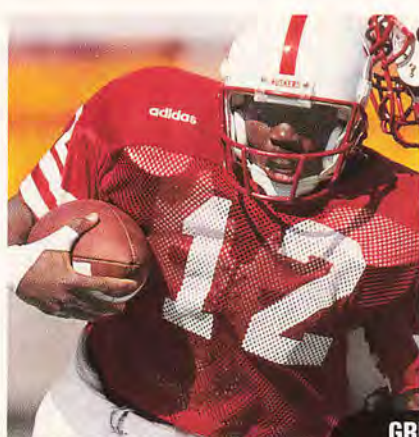
Vince Sebo and Jason Smith are likely to resume their punting battle. Sebo won the job last year but averaged only 39.4 for 31 kicks. Smith averaged 33.6 on 14 attempts. Junior Tim Geiger is the top candidate to replace kicker Scott Knickman.

## RECRUITING

Missouri continues to improve at keeping the best in-state talent at home. This year's haul included offensive lineman Justin Bland, a blue-chipper from Chillicothe, Mo. The Tigers also landed a possible gem in linebacker Mike Clay of Aldine, Texas.

By Bob Dutton





**BOBBY NEWCOMBE-QB**

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- New faces on offense have to step in without missing a beat.
- Find a defensive disrupter to replace Grant Wistrom and Jason Peter.
- Keep Evans healthy.

So the Tom Osborne epoch is over, and the Frank Solich era begins. Well, don't look for many changes in Huskertown—in the program, on the field or in the victory column.

Until proven otherwise, Nebraska remains the measuring stick for other Big 12 teams. The Huskers went 13-0 last year and gained a share of the national title after thrashing Peyton Manning and Tennessee, 42-17, in the Orange Bowl. "That's enough for me," Osborne said after the mauling in Miami, which hiked his record to 255-49-3 overall in 25 years and 60-3 in the last five. "There isn't a better way to go out."

And in comes Solich, an assistant for the last 19 years and the program's assistant head coach since 1991. "We have excellent players in our system," he said, "and I fully intend to do everything I can to maintain the continuity and success of the program and staff."

The challenge, though, is daunting. Nebraska has major holes to fill, and its fans aren't likely to tolerate any dropoff, as former quarterback Scott Frost learned two years ago after replacing Tommie Frazier.

## OFFENSE

Everything about the Huskers' vaunted I-back attack starts with the offensive line, which must be rebuilt. While there are concerns—center Josh Heskew is the only returning starter, and he underwent offseason back surgery—there's no reason to suspect the pipeline has suddenly gone dry.

Ben Gessford appears likely to start at guard, with Adam Julch and Jason Schwab the probable tackles. If form holds, any or all should be all-conference picks by November.

In the backfield, Frost has departed, and the Huskers also need to replace I-back Ahman Green, who bolted for the NFL after rushing for 1,877 yards and 22 TDs as a junior.

Again, never fear. Nebraska insiders speak of sophomore quarterback Bobby Newcombe in the same tone they once reserved for Frazier. Newcombe is so talented that he forced his way onto the field last year as a backup wingback. "They want quarterbacks here to run and pass and do athletic stuff," Newcombe said. "I want to be an athletic quarterback. Scott Frost gave me some helpful hints about how to do that. I talked to Tommie Frazier and Steve Taylor, too. They all talked about the pounding you get."

At I-back, DeAngelo Evans looks to put aside a year's worth of injuries and reclaim the form that enabled him to rush for 776 yards and 14 touchdowns in just 148 carries as a true freshman in 1996. "I'm feeling better now than I have in a long time," Evans said. "I'll be ready to play next fall."

While new faces dominate the offense, the Huskers do return fullback Joel Makovicka, a devastating blocker who powered his way to 685 yards and nine touchdowns.

## DEFENSE

Grant Wistrom and Jason Peter are major losses, but seven starters return and Solich sounds confident that new leaders will emerge. "They seem to show up in practices, scrimmages and player meetings," he said. "We'll have a number of different leaders in different ways, but we will have them."

The Huskers have two experienced cornerbacks in Ralph Brown and Erwin Swiney and another returning starter in strong safety Mike Brown. Jay Foreman and Tony Ortiz are back as starting linebackers, while Jason Wiltz and Mike Rucker started last season alongside Wistrom and Peter on the line.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Kris Brown is back for a fourth season and needs just 14 points to break the school's all-time career scoring record of 312 points held by Mike Rozier. Brown enters the season with a streak of 16 straight field goals. Bill Lafleur will take over the punting duties from the departed Jesse Kosch.

## RECRUITING

Nebraska signed 10 prep All-Americans. The class also includes Josh Brown of Foyil, Okla., who rushed for 1,898 yards and scored 40 TDs last year. Okay, it was 8-man football, but Brown is an undeniable athletic talent. He won the state high-jump championship by clearing 6 feet, 8 inches. The Huskers plan to make him a kicker.

By Bob Dutton

## NEBRASKA Facts

**Coach:** Frank Solich, 1st year

**'97 Record:** 13-0 (8-0 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb. (72,700; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 12 (4 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Ahman Green, RB (1st-team All-Big 12); Aaron Taylor, G (1st-team All-Big 12); Eric Anderson, OT (1st-team All-Big 12); Jason Peter, DT (1st-team All-Big 12); Grant Wistrom, DE (1st-team All-Big 12); Octavius McFarlin, LB; Eric Warfield, FS; Scott Frost, QB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Frankie London, Jr., 10-22-201 yards

**Rushing:** Joel Makovicka, Sr., 105 carries, 685 yards, 9 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Kenny Cheatham, Sr., 14

**Receiving (Yards):** Lance Brown, Sr., 226

**Tackles:** Mike Brown, Jr., 77

**Sacks:** Tony Ortiz, Jr., 3.5

**Interceptions:** Mike Brown, Jr., Ralph Brown, Jr., Joe Walker, So., Erwin Swiney, Jr., 2

**Punting:** Bill Lafleur, Sr., 40.0 avg.

**Kicking:** Kris Brown, Sr., 18-21 FGs (long 46), 62-62 PATs

**Scoring:** Brown, 116 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 ALA.-BIRM.  
9/12 @ California  
9/26 WASHINGTON  
10/3 vs. Oklahoma St.\*  
10/10 @ Texas A&M  
10/17 KANSAS  
10/24 MISSOURI  
10/31 TEXAS  
11/7 @ Iowa State  
11/14 @ Kansas State  
11/27 COLORADO

\*In Kansas City

## 1997 RESULTS

AKRON; W, 59-14  
C. FLORIDA; W, 38-24  
@ Washington; W, 27-14  
KANSAS STATE; W, 56-26  
@ Baylor; W, 49-21  
TEXAS TECH; W, 29-0  
@ Kansas; W, 35-0  
OKLAHOMA; W, 69-7  
@ Missouri; W, 45-38  
IOWA STATE; W, 77-14  
vs. Texas A&M; W, 54-15\*  
vs. Tennessee; W, 42-17\*\*

\*Big 12 Championship Game

\*\*Orange Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Newcombe (So., 6-0, 195) E. Crouch (Fr., 6-0, 190)  
RB: D. Evans (So., 5-9, 210) C. Buckhalter (So., 6-2, 225)  
FB: J. Makovicka (Sr., 5-11, 235)\* B. Legate (Sr., 5-11, 230)  
WR: K. Cheatham (Sr., 6-4, 210)\* M. Dawson (So., 6-0, 180)  
TE: S. Jackson (Sr., 6-4, 245) T. J. DeBates (Jr., 6-3, 250)  
WB: L. Brown (Sr., 5-11, 190)\* S. Wiggins (Sr., 5-11, 200)  
LT: A. Julch (Jr., 6-5, 315) K. Kollmorgen (Fr., 6-4, 290)  
LG: J. Sherman (Jr., 6-2, 295) B. Wade (Jr., 6-2, 300)  
C: J. Heskew (Sr., 6-3, 290)\* M. Baldwin (Jr., 6-1, 290)  
RG: B. Gessford (Sr., 6-2, 290) R. Hochstein (So., 6-3, 280)  
RT: J. Schwab (Jr., 6-1, 300) J. Clausen (Jr., 6-6, 305)

### DEFENSE

DE: C. Kelsay (Sr., 6-3, 250) K. Vanden Bosch (So., 6-4, 260)  
DT: S. Warren (Jr., 6-1, 305) L. Almanzar (So., 6-3, 285)  
DT: J. Wiltz (Sr., 6-4, 310)\* L. Kaiser (So., 6-5, 255)  
DE: M. Rucker (Sr., 6-6, 288)\* T. Toline (Sr., 6-3, 245)  
LB: T. Ortiz (Jr., 6-0, 215)\* B. Shaw (Jr., 6-1, 215)  
LB: J. Foreman (Sr., 6-1, 240)\* C. Polk (So., 6-3, 245)  
LB: E. Johnson (Sr., 6-1, 205) J. Jackson (Jr., 6-0, 235)  
CB: E. Swiney (So., 6-1, 180)\* K. Reynolds (So., 5-10, 185)  
CB: R. Brown (Jr., 5-9, 180)\* F. London (Jr., 6-0, 180)  
SS: M. Brown (Jr., 5-10, 205)\* J. Walker (So., 5-10, 200)  
FS: C. Finley (So., 5-11, 200) D. Booker (Fr., 6-1, 205)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: K. Brown (Sr., 5-10, 205)\* D. Hadenfeldt (Jr., 5-11, 200)  
P: B. Lafleur (Sr., 5-11, 200) D. Hadenfeldt (Jr., 5-11, 200)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• The Huskers have won 42 straight at home and 39 straight against conference opponents. Both marks are the longest current streaks in the nation.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.asiweb.com/lincoln/sports



## BAYLOR Facts

**Coach:** Dave Roberts, 2nd year, 2-9; 66-58-3 overall

**'97 Record:** 2-9 (1-7 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Floyd Casey, Waco, Texas (50,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 14 (5 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Jerod Douglas, RB; Jeff Watson, QB; Bradley Domel, TE; Michael Johnson, OT; Glenn Coy, LB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Odell James, So., 143-260-1,150 yards, 5 TDs, 8 INTs

**Rushing:** Darrell Bush, So., 103 carries, 693 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Derrius Thompson, Sr., 32, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Thompson, 420

**Tackles:** Rodney Smith, Jr., 109

**Sacks:** Charles Foster, Jr., 3

**Interceptions:** Smith, 1

**Punting:** Kyle Attebury, Jr., 42.6 avg.

**Kicking:** Matt Bryant, Jr., 9-14 FGs (long 42), 23-23 PATs

**Scoring:** Bryant, 50

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/12 @ Oregon State  
9/19 N.C. STATE  
9/26 @ Colorado  
10/3 @ Texas Tech  
10/10 KANSAS  
10/17 TEXAS A&M  
10/24 @ Texas  
10/31 @ Notre Dame  
11/7 KANSAS STATE  
11/14 OKLAHOMA  
11/21 @ Oklahoma State

### 1997 RESULTS

MIAMI (FLA.); L, 45-14  
@ Fresno State; W, 37-35  
@ Michigan; L, 38-3  
TEXAS TECH; L, 35-14  
NEBRASKA; L, 49-21  
@ Oklahoma; L, 24-23  
@ Iowa State; L, 24-17  
TEXAS; W, 23-21  
@ Texas A&M; L, 38-10  
@ Missouri; L, 42-24  
OKLAHOMA ST.; L, 24-14

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: O. James (So., 6-3, 217) J. Alfred (Jr., 6-1, 216)  
RB D. Bush (So., 5-8, 186) E. Burkins (Jr., 5-7, 180)  
FB: D. Lagway (So., 6-1, 224) R. Jackson (Jr., 5-10, 254)  
WR: M. Anderson (Sr., 6-1, 191)\* M. Dossett (So., 5-11, 170)  
WR: D. Thompson (Sr., 6-2, 210)\* G. Simpkins (Sr., 5-9, 177)  
TE: D. Arroyo (Jr., 6-3, 231) A. Obriotti (Fr., 6-2, 228)  
LT: K. Garmon (Sr., 6-2, 298)\* G. Jerman (Fr., 6-5, 270)  
LG: L. Nichols (So., 6-4, 300) M. Love (Jr., 6-3, 307)  
C: T. Summers (Jr., 6-2, 255)\* C. Sampy (Sr., 6-1, 270)  
RG: C. Rocha (Jr., 6-3, 293) S. Childress (Jr., 6-4, 235)  
RT: D. Fletcher (Sr., 6-6, 350)\* S. York (Fr., 6-4, 293)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Snow (Jr., 6-3, 230) C. Rubin (Sr., 6-0, 224)  
DT: D. Johnson (Jr., 6-4, 271)\* D. Phillips (Fr., 6-3, 249)  
DT: L. Hamilton (Sr., 6-0, 260) J. Calvin (So., 6-1, 275)  
DE: C. Foster (Jr., 6-1, 238)\* A. Williams (Jr., 6-2, 272)  
LB: M. Bowie (So., 6-0, 237) A. Taylor (Jr., 6-1, 232)  
LB: K. Micheaux (So., 6-1, 233)\* E. Clay (So., 6-1, 232)  
LB: J. Jackson (Jr., 6-0, 216)\* L. Hill (Sr., 6-2, 211)  
CB: G. Baxter (So., 6-1, 180) A. Pace (Fr., 5-9, 180)  
CB: R. Neal (So., 5-9, 197)\* D. Wiltmer (Fr., 5-9, 180)  
SS: R. Smith (Jr., 6-0, 223)\* N. Codie (Sr., 6-3, 207)\*  
FS: S. Al-Amin (So., 6-2, 190) K. Parker (Sr., 6-2, 208)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: M. Bryant (Jr., 5-9, 190)\* K. Attebury (Jr., 6-0, 175)  
P: K. Attebury (Jr., 6-0, 175)\* W. Speckels (So., 6-3, 214)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

•Darrell Bush rushed for more than 100 yards in three games last year, something no other Bear freshman had previously done.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.baylor.edu/~athletics



DARRELL BUSH-RB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Defense must improve quickly.
- Keep Odell James healthy.
- Stay competitive early in the season and continue to maintain fan interest.

Working with Lou Holtz at Notre Dame must have rubbed off on Dave Roberts, who has his former boss's knack for poor-mouthing his own team. Unfortunately, in his first year at Baylor a year ago, his predictions of doom were fairly accurate.

Small and slow, the Bears struggled to a 2-9 mark, their worst since 1973. One of those wins, though, was over defending Big 12 champion Texas, and in that the program found a rallying point. The *Waco Tribune-Herald's* web site featured a calendar based on the front page that ran after the Texas win. On one day it got 3,000 hits, many from Bears fans eager for a turnaround.

So is Roberts, who shuffled his staff, replacing defensive coordinator Ty Smith with secondary coach Mike Cassity, who has switched to a 50 defense with the idea of being more aggressive. New offensive coordinator Eddie Williamson replaces Darryl Drake, who took the same job at Texas, and plans to open up the passing game.

Roberts, who came to Baylor after three seasons as Notre Dame's offensive coordinator, will return to South Bend with his team on Halloween. How much of a treat it will be for the Bears remains to be seen.

### OFFENSE

Three years ago Odell James was rated as the top quarterback recruit in the nation, and when he chose the Bears over Nebraska it was seen as quite a coup. But James sat out his first year with a knee injury and then saw limited action in the second half of last year. He's finally healthy, and the Bears are hopeful his blend of passing and running can complement what looks to be a deep group of backs despite the loss of Jerod Douglas, who finished his career as the Bears' second-leading all-time rusher. Halfbacks Darrell Bush and Eli-

jah Burkins return, as does fullback Derek Lagway. Dexter Ford, who redshirted last year because of a shoulder injury, is also back.

The line is something of a question mark. Roberts has moved several experienced players to defense, notably center Anthony Williams. Still, tackles Derrick Fletcher and Kelvin Garmon return, as does guard turned center Toby Summers. Sophomore guard Luke Nichols is a player to watch.

The Bears were hurt by split end Mark Cogdill's decision to give up football for baseball. However, Derrius Thompson, the Bears' leading receiver last fall, returns, and Martin Dossett adds speed.

### DEFENSE

Last season only four Division I-A teams were worse defending the run than the Bears, who gave up 275.3 yards a game.

Cassity plans for Baylor to force the action this fall, which means improved play must come from a defensive line that returns tackle Dwight Johnson and end Charles Foster. Ben Rubin, a

converted fullback who missed last season with a serious knee injury, was impressive in the spring at rush end.

Kris Micheaux and Jason Jackson return at linebacker, where McKinley Bowie is another prospect. Fall newcomers are expected to make significant contributions here.

Cornerback is a key in the Bears plans to put more pressure on the quarterback, and they feel they have four promising, if inexperienced, players there. Freshmen Alan Pace and Daniel Wiltmer will push sophomore starters Gary Baxter and Robert Neal. The Bears are also talented at safety, with Nikia Codie, the only returning member of the Baylor defense to earn any All-Big 12 mention last year, moving over to battle Rodney Smith at strong safety. Sophomore Samir Al-Amin stepped in late last year as an injury replacement and now seems set at free safety.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Matt Bryant and punter Ty Attebury return after decent seasons. Elijah Burkins should be the kick returner.

### RECRUITING

Baylor signed 17 prospects, eight from the JUCO ranks. Two offensive linemen, Mike Love of Garden City (Kan.) and Scott Childress of Trinity Valley (Texas), enrolled at midyear and will contend for starting spots. Defensive lineman Edrick Brooks of NE Oklahoma and linebacker Fred Rogers of Navarro (Texas) could also step in immediately.

By Mark Wangrin





De'MOND PARKER-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- **Keep De'Mond Parker healthy.**
- **Force more TOs. Sooners had five INTs and seven fumble recoveries in '97.**
- **Use option attack to win time of possession battle.**

Thirteen seasons ago, John Blake was a volunteer assistant coach at Oklahoma when Jamelle Holieway was running the storied option attack that carried the Sooners to their sixth national title.

Working from first-hand knowledge, Blake has developed a clear opinion about this explosive offense. "You think of the schools that left the option, they're no better off than before. When teams left it, they didn't win as consistently," Blake said. "Teams that stayed with it, like Nebraska, have shown it works."

So after last season's 4-8 slide, Blake is resurrecting the Sooners' fabled option attack. It will be built around the devastating outside speed of halfback De'Mond Parker and the option skills of Brandon Daniels, who played receiver and defensive back his first two seasons in Norman after being touted as the nation's top option quarterback.

Defensively, Blake has borrowed from somebody else's tradition, mainly the Ryan family's, by hiring Buddy's son Rex to install the 46 defense that cross-state rival Oklahoma State used with great success in turning its program around last year.

## OFFENSE

"I feel more comfortable now than ever before," Blake said of the changes, which is music to the ears of Oklahoma's fans. The Sooners have gone through three head coaches and four different offenses in the last five seasons. "To run the option you have to have a guy who's tough, who believes in the option, to pull the trigger," Blake said. He believes he has that in Daniels, who dropped down to 213 pounds and ran a 4.48 40 this spring. The offense he'll run won't be the true Wishbone—the fullback dive will be a called play, not a read—and the Sooners will throw in the occasional one-back, two-tight end or two-

wideout set to spice things up. Regardless, look for the ball to wind up in the hands of Parker, who averaged 36.5 yards per touchdown run last year but who missed two games with injuries. Blake hopes the option will help him stay healthy. Jason Freeman will attempt to do his best Keith Jackson imitation and become a big-play receiver at tight end. Up front, tackle Scott Kempenich heads a young line that relied heavily on redshirt freshmen last year.

## DEFENSE

Ryan is high on tackle Kelly Gregg, whom he calls the best collegiate defensive player he's ever seen. Gregg, who led the team in tackles despite frequent double and triple teams, will be the mainstay on a young line that includes two talented sophs at end, Corey Callans and Rocky Bright.

Linebacker is the most unsettled spot, with none of the projected starters playing the position they did a year ago. Ontei Jones moves from strong safety to the weakside, as does running back Johnnie Balous. Sophs Brandon Moore and Armand Spence hold down the middle and strong positions, at least for now.

All four secondary starters return. Strong safety Gana Joseph will be key in the 46, with increased run responsibilities, and cornerbacks Mike Woods and Cory T. Ivy will see their one-on-one coverage skills tested to the limit.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Everything is up in the air with the kicking units, as the search is on for a new kicker, punter and long-snapper. Steve Daniels, who kicked briefly when Jeremy Alexander was hurt, is a former walk-on with the early line on the kicking duties. Jeff Ferguson is the heir apparent at punter. OU's return game looks solid, however, with the return of Jarraill Jackson.

## RECRUITING

Of OU's 26 signees—one over the limit, figuring for attrition—17 are targeted for defense. Linebacker Rocky Calmus, consensus state defensive player of the year, and defensive lineman Frank Romero head that list, but the Sooners aren't bereft of incoming offensive talent either. Players figuring to get early looks are running backs Josh Norman and Jay Hunt and tight end Trent Smith. Matt O'Neal, rated by some as the top JUCO center in the nation last year, arrives in the fall to battle for that position.

By Mark Wangrin

## OKLAHOMA Facts

**Coach:** John Blake, 3rd year, 7-16

**'97 Record:** 4-8 (2-6 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Owen Field, Memorial Stadium, Norman, Okla. (72,765; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (7 off., 8 def.)

**Key Players Lost:** Stephen Alexander, TE (2nd-team All-Big 12); Martin Chase, DT; Travian Smith, LB; Jeremy Alexander, K

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Brandon Daniels, Jr., 7-15-75 yards, 1 INT

**Rushing:** De'Mond Parker, Jr., 194 carries, 1,143 yards, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Parker, 11

**Receiving (Yards):** Parker, 140

**Tackles:** Kelly Gregg, Sr., 98

**Sacks:** Gregg, 5

**Interceptions:** Gana Joseph, Sr., 2

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Steve Daniels, So., 1-2 FGs (long 37); 2-2 PATs

**Scoring:** Parker, 36

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 NORTH TEXAS  
9/12 @ Texas Christian  
9/19 CALIFORNIA  
10/3 COLORADO  
10/10 vs. Texas\*  
10/17 @ Missouri  
10/24 @ Oklahoma State  
10/31 IOWA STATE  
11/7 @ Texas A&M  
11/14 @ Baylor  
11/21 TEXAS TECH  
\*in Dallas

## 1997 RESULTS

NORTHWESTERN; L, 24-0  
SYRACUSE; W, 36-34  
@ California; L, 40-36  
LOUISVILLE; W, 35-14  
@ Kansas; L, 20-17  
TEXAS; L, 27-24  
BAYLOR; W, 24-23  
KANSAS STATE; L, 26-7  
@ Nebraska; L, 69-7  
OKLAHOMA ST.; L, 30-7  
TEXAS A&M; L, 51-7  
@ Texas Tech; W, 32-21

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Daniels (Jr., 5-10, 213)\* J. Reese (Fr., 6-3, 194)  
RB: D. Parker (Jr., 5-10, 190)\* S. Peters (Fr., 5-8, 170)  
FB: J. Fazande (Sr., 6-0, 248)\* S. Littrell (So., 6-0, 213)  
WR: J. Jackson (Jr., 5-8, 187)\* A. Kabba (So., 6-1, 192)  
WR: C. Blocker (Sr., 6-1, 218) G. Williams (Sr., 6-3, 186)\*  
TE: J. Freeman (Sr., 6-3, 240) M. Anderson (Jr., 6-3, 250)  
LT: S. Kempenich (So., 6-6, 322)\* A. Baysinger (So., 6-4, 330)  
LG: A. Carpenter (So., 6-3, 299) C.B. Baker (So., 6-2, 282)  
C: S. Burcham (So., 6-4, 266) A. Simmons (Sr., 6-0, 301)  
RG: T. Macias (Sr., 6-4, 246)\* J. Bronson (So., 6-2, 271)  
RT: A. Pittman (So., 6-5, 320) T. Conley (Sr., 6-6, 316)

### DEFENSE

DE: R. Bright (So., 6-4, 254)\* T. Nutt (Fr., 6-3, 244)  
DT: K. Gregg (Sr., 6-0, 280)\* S. Williams (Jr., 6-3, 287)  
DT: J. Wilson (So., 6-0, 285) R. Fisher (So., 6-3, 273)  
DE: C. Callans (So., 6-3, 264)\* C. Burton (Sr., 6-5, 276)  
LB: J. Balous (Jr., 6-1, 220) O. Jones (So., 5-9, 200)  
LB: B. Moore (So., 6-2, 222) T. Peters (Fr., 5-11, 224)  
LB: A. Spence (So., 6-2, 234) S. Jones (Jr., 6-2, 248)\*  
CB: M. Woods (Jr., 5-11, 178)\* P. Woods (Jr., 5-8, 180)  
CB: C. T. Ivy (Sr., 5-10, 187)\* C. Stephens (Sr., 5-9, 184)  
SS: G. Joseph (Sr., 6-0, 210)\* J. Joseph (Sr., 5-11, 194)  
FS: T. White (Sr., 5-10, 195)\* J. Sills (Fr., 6-3, 190)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: S. Daniels (So., 5-10, 172) J. Ferguson (Fr., 6-0, 170)  
P: J. Ferguson (Fr., 6-0, 170) J.T. Thatcher (So., 6-1, 202)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• De'Mond Parker needs 1,669 yards to surpass Joe Washington as OU's all-time rushing leader.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.ou.edu/athweb



## OKLAHOMA STATE Facts

**Coach:** Bob Simmons, 4th year, 17-18  
**'97 Record:** 8-4 (5-3 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Lewis Field, Stillwater, Okla., (50,614; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 16 (7 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Alonzo Mayes, TE (1st-team All-America, All-Big 12); R.W. McQuarters, FS (1st-team All-Big 12); Kevin Williams, CB (1st-team All-Big 12); Josh Henson, OL (2nd-team All-Big 12); Jason Davis, P

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Tony Lindsay, So., 76-123-1,172 yards, 9 TDs, 5 INTs  
**Rushing:** Jamal Fobbs, So., 161 carries, 846 yards, 3 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Willie Grissom, Sr., 14  
**Receiving (Yards):** Sean Love, Sr., 231  
**Tackles:** Rick Thompson, Sr., 84  
**Sacks:** Jamal Williams, Sr., 3.5  
**Interceptions:** Thompson, 3  
**Punting:** None  
**Kicking:** Tim Sydnes, Jr., 15-23 FGs (long 49), 23-23 PATs  
**Scoring:** Sydnes, 68

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Kansas  
 9/12 @ Tulsa  
 9/19 MISSISSIPPI ST.  
 9/26 SW LOUISIANA  
 10/3 vs. Nebraska\*  
 10/10 @ Texas Tech  
 10/17 @ Kansas State  
 10/24 OKLAHOMA  
 11/31 TEXAS A&M  
 11/7 @ Texas  
 11/21 BAYLOR  
 \*at Kansas City

### 1997 RESULTS

@ Iowa State; W, 21-14  
 @ SW Louisiana, W, 31-7  
 FRESNO ST.; W, 35-0  
 NE LOUISIANA; W, 38-7  
 TEXAS; W, 42-16  
 COLORADO; W, 33-29  
 MISSOURI; L, 51-50  
 @ Texas A&M; L, 28-25  
 @ Oklahoma; W, 30-7  
 TEXAS TECH; L, 27-3  
 @ Baylor; W, 24-14  
 vs. Purdue; L, 33-20\*  
 \*Alamo Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: T. Lindsay (So., 6-2, 190)\* C. Chaloupka (Jr., 6-2, 218)  
 RB: N. Simmons (Jr., 5-11, 197)\* J. Fobbs (So., 5-10, 180)  
 FB: B. Atkins (Sr., 6-0, 245)\* K. Brown (Jr., 6-1, 260)  
 WR: S. Love (Sr., 5-9, 180) T. Richardson (Jr., 5-9, 180)  
 WR: W. Grissom (Sr., 5-11, 190)\* E. Howell (Jr., 6-1, 172)  
 TE: G. Steggs (Jr., 6-3, 235) S. Barry (So., 6-4, 234)  
 LT: D. Camacho (Sr., 6-7, 300)\* J. Lind (Fr., 6-6, 279)  
 LG: A. Davis (Jr., 6-4, 274)\* B. Cook (So., 6-3, 275)  
 C: J. Offutt (Sr., 6-5, 295)\* R. Lavigne (So., 6-1, 286)  
 RG: J. Arceo (Sr., 6-5, 297) J. Johnson (So., 6-3, 275)  
 RT: A. Gol'biewski (Jr., 6-5, 288) B. Phillips (Fr., 6-5, 285)

### DEFENSE

DE: A. Weaver (Sr., 6-4, 273)\* T. LeBlanc (Sr., 6-2, 260)  
 DT: Z. Akin (Jr., 6-1, 230) E. Stevenson (Fr., 6-2, 279)  
 DT: C. Mallory (Jr., 6-1, 289)\* T. LeBlanc (Sr., 6-2, 260)  
 DE: A. Waddle (Sr., 6-2, 240)\* Z. Warner (So., 6-4, 239)  
 LB: T. Knauls (Jr., 6-1, 235)\* J. Thomas (So., 6-3, 237)  
 LB: K. Wright (Jr., 6-1, 232)\* R. Cato (Jr., 6-1, 240)  
 LB: J. Golden (Sr., 6-1, 230)\* D. Levels (So., 6-3, 220)  
 CB: E. Howell (Jr., 6-1, 173) M. Jones (So., 5-9, 175)  
 CB: A. Edwards (Jr., 6-0, 215) J.B. Flowers (So., 6-2, 180)  
 SS: T. Alexander (Sr., 6-0, 195)\* J. Howard (So., 6-2, 180)  
 FS: R. Thompson (Sr., 6-1, 178)\* C. Carter (Jr., 6-3, 220)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: T. Sydnes (Jr., 6-2, 195)\* S. Condeley (Jr., 5-10, 162)  
 P: R. Schwettmann (So., 6-3, 204) S. Condeley (Jr., 5-10, 162)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Last year the Cowboys went 6-2 in Big 12 play, a four-game difference over '96 — the biggest one-year improvement in conference play ever.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www2.okstate.edu/athletics



TONY LINDSAY-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Don't let last season's sudden success spoil them.
- Tighten pass defense.
- Solidify rebuilding offensive line that was hit by injuries in the spring.

Word began filtering out that Bob Simmons was having surgery last March when someone who witnessed the operation called a radio talk show and breathlessly described what he had seen. The report was treated with skepticism, because his boss didn't know anything about it, and neither did his players or his fellow coaches or even his parents.

Six days later Simmons, who turned 50 in June, returned to his job as the Cowboys head coach, his back still sore where one of his wife's kidneys had been transplanted and his ears buzzing with more than a few questions. "Everybody wanted some answers," Simmons said.

Of course, this was nothing new for Simmons. Just last fall he took a young team that was blown out by 57 points at Texas the year before, that lost 11 players in the preseason to suspension and had the longest bowl drought in the Big 12 South Division to an 8-4 mark. Few knew that was going to happen, either.

This fall the Cowboys will try to build on their success, and while they return 16 starters, they lose All-American tight end Alonzo Mayes, three-way standout R.W. McQuarters and defensive lineman Jamal Williams. "We plan to build on what we started," Simmons said. "Our theme is to raise the standard."

### OFFENSE

Simmons isn't the only Cowboy who was recovering from spring surgery. QB Tony Lindsay, whose running skills helped the Cowboys recover from the preseason loss of their top tailback to academic problems last year, had laser surgery to remove excess tissue from a heart valve. But the 1997 Big 12 Freshman of the Year should be ready to go in the fall.

OSU is young but proven in the backfield, with tailback Nathan Simmons, the coach's son, and Jamaal Fobbs returning after ham-and-egging it last season to the tune of a

combined 1,556 yards. OSU passed the ball only 18 times a game and Mayes had more than twice as many catches as any other receiver. McQuarters only caught eight balls, but averaged 30.2 yards a catch. With both gone, Lindsay will rely on steady tight end Garrett Steggs and wideouts Willie Grissom and Sean Love.

Two starters are gone from an offensive line that helped the Cowboys average 4.2 yards a rush. Answers were few in the spring as injuries sidelined four of the top lineman for at least part of the drills.

### DEFENSE

A switch to the aggressive 46 defense was probably the biggest factor in OSU's resurgence last season, as the Cowboys dropped their yards rushing allowed per game from 225.4 to 113.4. Williams was a key factor in the improvement, and his decision to enter the NFL supplemental draft hurts. Still, six of the other front seven players are returning, including linebacker Kenya

Wright, a second-team all-conference pick who was second on the team in tackles for loss, with 10. Raymond Cato, who was expected to be one of the top defenders last year before his academic suspension, is also back.

Both safeties, Trent Alexander and leading tackler Ricky Thompson, are back, but the Cowboys must rebuild at cornerback. J.B. Flowers, who missed last season for academic reasons, and junior Chris Carter return to fight for the starting spots, but the Cowboys are likely to rely heavily on inexperienced players and recruits.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cowboys are searching for replacements for punter Jason Davis and McQuarters, who was the second-team all-conference kick returner. Sophomore Russ Schwettmann has the talent to pick up for Davis while Nathan Simmons is the likely replacement for McQuarters. Junior kicker Tim Sydnes was perfect under 40 yards but missed all five attempts from 50 and beyond.

### RECRUITING

For the first time in his four recruiting seasons at OSU, Simmons was able to go into a prospect's home with proof, not promises. It showed. The Cowboys landed 23 prospects, including Parade All-American Matt Holliday of hometown Stillwater High. Others who could contribute early are two JUCO players, linebacker Troy West of Hutchinson and defensive lineman Casey Goodwin.

By Mark Wangrin





RICKY WILLIAMS-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- QB play must take heat off Ricky Williams.
- Improve woeful turnover margin.
- Crank up pass rush that had only 15 sacks last year.

North Carolina had the bait. The deep-pocketed folks in Chapel Hill were ready to throw a long-term, \$1 million annual contract at Mack Brown to keep him. Texas, though, had the hook. The Longhorns offered what money can't buy—tradition. "It seems every school in the Big 12 really wants to beat Texas," Brown said. "Last year three sets of goalposts were taken down after wins. That sends a message that winning is important here."

Since arriving at Texas, the 46-year-old Brown has invoked the name of Darrell Royal every fifth sentence or so, willfully tying his program to the tradition of the Longhorn teams that won three national titles. Now comes the hard part—living up to it.

Brown does have the nation's leading rusher and scorer returning in Ricky Williams, promising receivers and a veteran of defensive line. But he also has uncertainty at quarterback and the task of rebuilding a defense that last season allowed more points than any previous team in Longhorn history.

## OFFENSE

It helps having a returning player who scored more points last season (152) than four Big 12 teams did in their eight conference games. Brown has said he'll try everything possible in the Horns' new West Coast offense to get the ball to Williams. "But if it comes down to winning games, I think Ricky will understand that's the priority," Brown said.

Helping Williams will be the return of fullback Ricky Brown, the offense's most improved player last year, and four of five offensive linemen, led by tackles Octavious Bishop and Jay Humphrey and guard Ben Adams.

Receiver, a liability early last season, looks to be strong with the emergence of possession receiver Kwame Cavil and the return of Wane McGarity from knee surgery. Who will

throw them the ball remains unclear. Senior Richard Walton will try to hold off redshirt freshmen Major Applewhite and Greg Cicero for the right to replace James Brown, who led Texas to three conference titles.

## DEFENSE

Speed has become the focal point of rebuilding a unit that ranked 96th in the nation in total defense, and although seven starters return, only the fast—and tough—will survive. "If you can't strike, we won't look at you very long," new defensive coordinator Carl Reese said. "If you pass on a lick, we'll let you watch."

Reese plans to install an attack-style 4-3 that will attempt to improve woeful turnover (14 forced) and sack (15) totals while improving a porous rush defense that ranked 104th in the nation.

End Aaron Humphrey is the top lineman, and tackles Cedric Woodard and Shaun Rogers are promising. A lack of depth at linebacker opens the door for a talented recruiting class, but look for senior Dusty Renfro and converted fullback DeAndre Lewis to emerge early.

In the secondary the Horns will continue auditions through the preseason, but safety Donald McCowen appears to be the early leader of a young group. Finding bump-and-run cornerbacks from a group that includes sophomores Quentin Jammer and Joe Walker, junior Chris Butcher and senior Tony Holmes, is a key.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Phil Dawson was a clutch scoring option for four seasons, and his absence puts sophomore Kris Stockton on the spot. The Horns are also searching for a punter, and will likely settle on a walk-on group that includes Ryan Long, Jeff Baker and Greg Murray. Finding an explosive return game is also a goal. The Horns haven't returned a kickoff for a score since 1978, a streak (228) that ranks only behind Illinois (233) among I-A teams.

## RECRUITING

When Williams announced that he would stay for his senior season, Brown quipped, "We've just had a successful recruiting class." It would get better, even though Texas didn't get the playmaking defensive end it coveted. Brown signed 19 players, including potential impact players like Parade All-Americans Antwan Kirk-Hughes of Waxahachie and receiver Montrell Flowers of Dallas. Linebackers Everick Rawls and Jermaine Anderson of Texas City could also help immediately.

By Mark Wangrin

## TEXAS Facts

**Coach:** Mack Brown, 1st year; 87-74-1 overall

**'97 Record:** 4-7 (2-6 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Darrell K Royal-Memorial, Austin, Texas (80,012; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (8 off., 7 def.)

**Key Players Lost:** Phil Dawson, K (2nd-team All-Big 12); James Brown, QB; Ryan Fiebigler, C; Chris Akins, DT; Steve Bradley, TE

\*Record revised to 5-6 (3-5) after Colorado was forced to forfeit victory by NCAA.

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Richard Walton, Sr., 31-57-314 yards, 1 TD, 3 INTs

**Rushing:** Ricky Williams, Sr., 279 carries, 1,893 yards, 25 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Kwame Cavil, So., 23

**Receiving (Yards):** Cavil, 316

**Tackles:** Dusty Renfro, Sr., 107

**Sacks:** Renfro, 4

**Interceptions:** Aaron Humphrey, Jr., 3

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** Williams, 152

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 NEW MEXICO ST.  
9/12 @ UCLA  
9/19 @ Kansas St.  
9/26 RICE  
10/3 IOWA STATE  
10/10 vs. Oklahoma\*  
10/24 BAYLOR  
10/31 @ Nebraska  
11/7 OKLAHOMA ST.  
11/14 @ Texas Tech  
11/27 TEXAS A&M

\*in Dallas

## 1997 RESULTS

RUTGERS; W, 48-14  
UCLA; L, 66-3  
@ Rice; W, 38-31  
@ Oklahoma St.; L, 42-16  
vs. Oklahoma; W, 27-24\*  
@ Missouri; L, 37-29  
COLORADO; L, 47-30  
@ Baylor; L, 23-21  
TEXAS TECH; L, 24-10  
KANSAS; W, 45-31  
@ Texas A&M; L, 27-16

\*in Dallas

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: R. Walton (Sr., 6-5, 225) G. Cicero (Fr., 6-4, 195)  
RB: R. Williams (Sr., 6-0, 225)\* H. Mitchell (So., 5-7, 180)  
FB: R. Brown (Jr., 6-0, 215)\* M. Gordon (Fr., 6-1, 215)  
WR: K. Cavil (So., 6-2, 200)\* J. Thompson (So., 6-0, 180)  
WR: W. McGarity (Sr., 5-9, 190)\* B. White (Sr., 5-10, 180)  
TE: D. Lewis (Sr., 6-2, 235) M. Jones (Fr., 6-4, 235)  
LT: O. Bishop (Sr., 6-5, 321)\* C. Quye (So., 6-6, 300)  
LG: R. Roesler (Jr., 6-5, 308)\* T. Wood (Sr., 6-3, 290)  
C: R. Gaskamp (Sr., 6-4, 288) M. Blanchard (So., 6-4, 290)  
RG: B. Adams (Sr., 6-5, 305)\* J. Hubbard (So., 6-4, 301)  
RT: J. Humphrey (Sr., 6-7, 305)\* L. Davis (So., 6-7, 360)

### DEFENSE

DE: A. Humphrey (Jr., 6-3, 245)\* B. Nava (Jr., 6-3, 240)\*  
DT: C. Woodard (Jr., 6-3, 280)\* S. Rogers (So., 6-4, 300)  
DT: C. Hampton (So., 6-1, 307) G. Mosier (Sr., 6-5, 271)  
DE: J. Kelly (So., 6-2, 240) C. Smith (Jr., 6-5, 245)  
LB: A. Babinio (Jr., 6-1, 215)\* C. Mitchell (Fr., 6-0, 200)  
LB: D. Renfro (Sr., 6-0, 230)\* J. Spoerl (So., 6-1, 240)  
LB: D. Lewis (Fr., 6-1, 225) M. Watson (Sr., 6-2, 215)  
CB: J. Walker (So., 6-0, 175) T. Dillon (Fr., 5-8, 175)  
CB: C. Butcher (Jr., 6-0, 191) J. Jones (Jr., 5-9, 162)  
SS: T. Holmes (Sr., 5-9, 180)\* G. Brown (So., 6-2, 190)  
FS: Q. Jammer (So., 6-1, 180) D. McCowen (So., 6-0, 205)\*

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: K. Stockton (So., 5-9, 185) R. Long (Jr., 6-1, 190)  
P: K. Stockton (So., 5-9, 185) R. Long (Jr., 6-1, 190)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Halfback Ricky Williams needs 1,928 yards to break Tony Dorsett's NCAA Division I-A career rushing record.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.utexas.edu/athletics



# TEXAS A&M Facts

# ATM Texas A&M

**Coach:** R.C. Slocum, 10th year, 83-25-2

**'97 Record:** 9-4 (6-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Kyle Field, College Station, Texas

(estimated 60,000 during construction; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (8 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Steve McKinney, OG (2nd-team All-Big 12); Kyle Bryant, K (3rd-team All-Big 12); Phillip Meyers, LB; Chris Ruhman, OT; Koby Hackrad, C; Brad Crowley, DE; Zerick Rollins, DE; Marcus Heard, NG

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Brannndon Stewart, Sr., 11-196-1,429 yards, 10 TDs, 4 INTs

**Rushing:** Dante Hall, Jr., 134 carries, 973 yards, 9 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Derrick Spiller, Sr., and Chris Cole, Jr., 25

**Receiving (Yards):** Spiller, 436

**Tackles:** Dat Nguyen, Sr., 123

**Sacks:** Chris Thierry, Jr., 6

**Interceptions:** Sedrick Curry, Jr., 3

**Punting:** Shane Lechler, Jr., 47.0 avg.

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** Sirr Parker, Sr., 68

## 1998 SCHEDULE

8/31 vs. Florida State\*  
9/12 LOUISIANA TECH  
9/19 @ Southern Miss  
9/26 NORTH TEXAS  
10/3 @ Kansas  
10/10 NEBRASKA  
10/17 @ Baylor  
10/24 TEXAS TECH  
10/31 @ Oklahoma State  
11/7 OKLAHOMA  
11/14 MISSOURI  
11/27 @ Texas

\*Kickoff Classic

## 1997 RESULTS

SAM HOUSTON ST.; W, 59-6  
SW LOUISIANA; W, 66-0  
@ North Texas; W, 36-10  
@ Colorado; W, 16-10  
IOWA STATE; W, 56-17  
@ Kansas State; L, 36-17  
@ Texas Tech; L, 16-13  
OKLAHOMA ST.; W, 28-25  
BAYLOR; W, 38-10  
@ Oklahoma; W, 51-7  
TEXAS; W, 27-16  
vs. Nebraska; L, 54-15\*

vs. UCLA; L, 29-23\*\*

\*Big 12 championship game

\*\*Cotton Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Stewart (Sr., 6-2, 221)\* R. McCown (Jr., 6-1, 210)  
RB D. Hall (Jr., 5-8, 190)\* S. Parker (Sr., 5-11, 188)  
FB: M. Broyles (Sr., 5-11, 247)\* D. Hardeman (Sr., 5-11, 232)  
WR: L. Hodge (Jr., 6-2, 204)\* C. Taylor (So., 5-10, 176)  
WR: A. Oliver (Sr., 6-0, 198)\* C. Cole (Jr., 6-0, 186)  
TE: D. Spiller (Sr., 6-3, 257)\* D. Campbell (Sr., 6-5, 262)  
LT: B. Tucker (Sr., 6-5, 290) M. Yakalahi (Fr., 6-5, 307)  
LG: C. Spikes (Sr., 6-3, 310)\* C. Valletta (So., 6-2, 306)  
C: S. McKinney (Fr., 6-3, 293) T. McCarthy (So., 6-2, 283)  
RG: S. Heimuli (Jr., 6-2, 303)\* B. Houston (Sr., 6-5, 293)  
RT: A. Vincent (Jr., 6-3, 301) S. Holder (Jr., 6-5, 304)

### DEFENSE

DE: R. Bernard (So., 6-2, 269) L. Madison (Fr., 6-3, 250)  
NG: R. Edwards (So., 6-3, 263) S. Young (So., 6-0, 268)  
DE: B. Flemmons (So., 6-5, 247) M. Kazmierski (Jr., 6-4, 252)  
LB: W. Holdman (Sr., 6-1, 230)\* J. Glenn (So., 6-0, 220)  
LB: C. Anthony (So., 6-0, 224) S. Coryatt (So., 6-0, 218)  
LB: D. Nguyen (Sr., 5-11, 222)\* A. Simon (Fr., 6-1, 229)  
LB: B. Bradley (So., 6-1, 221) C. Thierry (Jr., 6-2, 221)  
CB: J. Webster (Jr., 5-10, 178)\* J. Brooks (Fr., 5-9, 180)  
CB: S. Curry (Jr., 6-2, 192)\* S. Horn (Sr., 5-9, 190)  
SS: B. Coady (Sr., 6-1, 210)\* M. Jameson (So., 5-10, 179)  
FS: B. Jennings (Jr., 6-1, 191)\* T. Jones (Sr., 6-2, 204)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: R. Bynum (So., 5-9, 176) T. Kitchens (So., 5-9, 171)  
P: S. Lechler (Jr., 6-2, 220)\* T. Kitchens (So., 5-9, 171)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Linebacker Dat Nguyen needs 86 tackles to break the school career record of 455 set by Johnny Holland (1983-86). He can also become the first Aggie to lead the team in tackles for four seasons.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.tamu.edu/sports



DAT NGUYEN-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Brannndon Stewart must elevate play.
- Offensive line must gel with three new starters.
- Set tone for the season with strong opener against Florida State.

Throughout the season construction cranes will tower over the goalposts in the north end of Kyle Field as workers continue to build what will be a monstrous upper deck. "It's loud and dusty, but everything's coming along," Aggies coach R.C. Slocum said.

The new seats won't be ready for this season, but Slocum is confident the grandstand won't be the only thing reaching for new heights. Encouraged by improving quarterback play from senior Brannndon Stewart and a young but very talented defensive line, Slocum is hoping to build on last season's 9-4 mark and Big 12 South Division title. "I think we'll be better at quarterback and overall defensively, and our running backs have another year of experience," Slocum said. "We've got a tough opener against Florida State, and if we don't win we have to put it behind us better. We didn't do a good job of that two years ago. We let that loss to BYU linger."

## OFFENSE

After last season Slocum chatted with retired Nebraska coach Tom Osborne. The subject was quarterbacks. "He told me how Scott Frost, a year ago, had an up and down season," Slocum recalled. "Then he had a good spring and came on strong in the fall." Slocum hopes that will be the case this year with his quarterback, Stewart. The highly touted Tennessee transfer finally found consistency last season, throwing 10 TDs with only 4 INTs.

A receiving corps that Slocum considers the most-improved position should make Stewart's job easier, as should the return of tight end Derrick Spiller. The plan from new offensive coordinator Steve Kragthorpe isn't to pass more, just be more effective. With running backs Sirr Parker, D'Andre Hardeman and Dante Hall back after combining for

2,281 yards on the ground—all averaging more than 5.4 yards a rush—and Eric Bernard back after knee surgery, there's no reason not to stick to the ground.

The effectiveness of Stewart and the running game, though, hinges on an offensive line that lost three starters. Returning tackle Cameron Spikes moves to left guard, a move that has Slocum excited, and sophomore Seth McKinney had a strong spring at center.

## DEFENSE

Three senior starters are gone off the defensive line but few in College Station are concerned. In fact, many around the program feel the Aggies may be better. Three sophomores who played extensively last fall are back, including end Rocky Bernard, as well as four freshman who redshirted. "We'll be young, but they're getting better all the time," Slocum said. Two linebacker starters are gone, but experienced backups remain, including Sean Coryatt, who split time with Trent Driver, and sophomore Roylin Bradley, who had four sacks in limited time last year. They'll join returnees Warrick Holdman and Dat Nguyen, a serious Butkus Award candidate who should easily break the school career record for tackles.

The secondary, including corners Shun Horn and Jason Webster, is intact from last year, when the Aggies allowed only three passing touchdowns. Also returning are former walk-on Rich Coady, who was second on the team in tackles with 92, and three-year starter Brandon Jennings.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

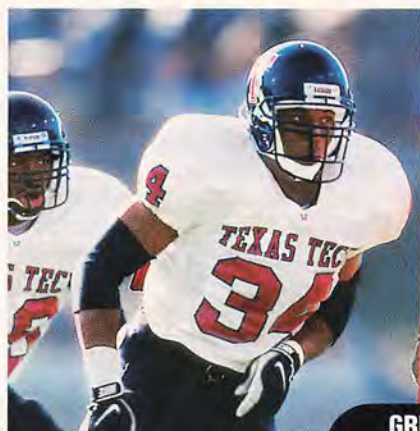
Shane Lechler is back to handle the punting after averaging 47.0 yards a punt and earning first-team All-Big 12 honors. As usual, the Aggies will also be strong in the return game, with Sirr Parker (29.9 yards per return, 1 TD) deep on kickoffs and Dante Hall (12.2, 1 TD) back on punts. Sophomores Terence Kitchens and Russell Bynum will duel for the kicking position through the preseason.

## RECRUITING

Texas A&M's recruiting class wasn't as impressive as usual, but there isn't as much need for it to contribute immediately. The Aggies loaded up on offense, signing only one defensive player and one punter among the 16 recruits. Their two new quarterbacks, Chip Ambres and Vance Smith, could battle to replace Stewart next year. Wide receivers Bethel Johnson and Robert Ferguson are other top prospects.

By Mark Wangrin





MONTAE REAGOR-DE

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Improve Red Zone scoring.
- Do a better job controlling the ball.
- Develop depth at receiver. Players behind Donnie Hart and Derek Dorris had only eight catches last season.

This being the age of interaction and virtual reality, Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes decided to get the fans involved last spring by letting them vote for the starters for the Red Raiders' spring game. Said Dykes, "I've been a head football coach at Texas Tech for 11 years now. I've noticed many fans know more than I do. So I'm giving the fans a voice."

Dykes won't continue that involvement during the season, but it's not like he needs the input. The 1996 Big 12 Coach of the Year has an uncanny knack for exceeding expectations, and if his Red Raiders can fill holes up the middle on offense and defense they should again contend in a topsy-turvy South Division.

Unfortunately, Tech's off-the-field situation is not as cheery. In response to the NCAA's two-year investigation into academic irregularities, Tech put itself on three-year probation in all sports. Football will lose 14 scholarships over the next two years. The NCAA Infractions committee was expected to hand down stiff penalties sometime in June.

## OFFENSE

Normally the loss of a four-year starter at quarterback who is the school's all-time leader in passing and total offense has a coach scrambling, but Dykes likes what he sees in Rob Peters. On par with the departed Zebbie Lethridge's dangerous scrambling ability, the sturdy junior is also expected to improve the passing game.

Tech hopes to use more formations, including more three wideout sets, a plan that hinges heavily in finding depth at wide receiver behind senior Donnie Hart, who has been slowed by a hamstring injury, and sophomore Derek Dorris, who'll give the Red Raiders a second deep threat.

Halfback was a major concern last fall, but freshman Ricky Williams came in and quickly settled the position, running for 894 yards. He'll again have capable fullback Jonathan Hawkins to run behind, and veteran tackles in 363-pound Jonathan "The House" Gray and 327-pound Steve "The Shack" McFadden, but it remains to be seen how quickly two new guards and a new center can fit in.

## DEFENSE

A late-season car accident left starting defensive tackle Stoney Garland paralyzed, leaving both spots open. Cody Patton, who has struggled with injuries, and Kris Kocurek, who played as a freshman last fall, will try to firm up a line that includes end Montae Reagor, a strong candidate for conference defensive player of the year honors.

At middle linebacker, Kyle Shipley is not expected to pick up where former Raiders Zach Thomas and Eric Butler left off, but should be solid. Strong safety Dane Johnson led Tech in tackles in his final season, but his loss will be eased by sophomore John Norman, who makes up in talent for what he lacks in experience.

By late season, returnee Darwin Brown had supplanted departed senior Tony Darden as the top corner, so either Brian Giddens or Antwan Alexander will play at the other corner.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Jaret Greaser takes over full-time after splitting the kicking duties with Tony Rogers, who was the long-distance specialist. Greaser made five of nine field-goal attempts, but missed both attempts longer than 37 yards. Jeremy Hernandez's hold on the starting punting job was challenged last season by Brian Roberson, and the two ended up splitting the duties, combining to land 13 punts inside their opponents' 15 yard line. They'll alternate again this fall. Finding a returner to match Dane Johnson, who averaged 11.2 yards a punt return and scored two touchdowns last season, will be a key.

## RECRUITING

Tech limited itself to 15 scholarships as a proactive step in the upcoming NCAA sanctions, but the Raiders feel they made the most of it. All but three of the 15 are expected to contribute as freshman, with defensive tackle Robert Wyatt of Duncanville, linebacker Rusty Bucy of Katy and defensive back Shaun Carr of Navarro (Texas) JC leading the way.

By Mark Wangrin

## TEXAS TECH Facts

**Coach:** Spike Dykes, 12th year, 69-57-1

**'97 Record:** 6-5 (5-3 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Jones Stadium, Lubbock, Texas (50,500; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (6 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Dane Johnson, S (1st-team All-Big 12); Jay Pugh, OL (2nd-team All-Big 12); Cody McGuire, DT (2nd-team All-Big 12); Zebbie Lethridge, QB; Chris Whitney, OL; Jayson Hansen, OL; Eric Butler, MLB; Malcolm McKenzie, FL; Stoney Garland, DT

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Rob Peters, Jr., 6-14-109 yards, 1 TD, 2 INTs  
**Rushing:** Ricky Williams, So., 201 carries, 894 yards, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Donnie Hart, Sr., 41

**Receiving (Yards):** Hart, 609

**Tackles:** Montae Reagor, Sr., 97

**Sacks:** Reagor, 10.5

**Interceptions:** Ty Ardoin, Sr., and Darwin Brown, Sr., 2

**Punting:** Jeremy Hernandez, Sr., 40.2

**Kicking:** Jaret Greaser, Sr., 5-6 FGs (long 37), 16-17 PATs

**Scoring:** Greaser, 31

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 TEXAS-EL PASO  
9/12 @ North Texas  
9/19 FRESNO STATE  
9/26 @ Iowa State  
10/3 BAYLOR  
10/10 OKLAHOMA ST.  
10/17 @ Colorado  
10/24 @ Texas A&M  
10/31 MISSOURI  
11/14 TEXAS  
11/21 @ Oklahoma

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Tennessee; L, 52-17  
SW LOUISIANA; W, 59-14  
NORTH TEXAS; L, 30-27  
@ Baylor; W, 35-14  
KANSAS; W, 17-7  
@ Nebraska; L, 29-0  
TEXAS A&M; W, 16-13  
KANSAS ST.; L, 13-2  
@ Texas; W, 24-10  
@ Oklahoma St.; W, 27-3  
OKLAHOMA; L, 32-21

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: R. Peters (Jr., 6-3, 236) M. Tittle (Jr., 6-3, 215)  
RB: R. Williams (So., 5-7, 182)\* R. Hunter (So., 5-10, 184)  
FB: J. Hawkins (So., 5-11, 219)\* J. Coffey (Fr., 5-10, 221)  
WR: D. Dorris (So., 6-2, 185) T. Baker (So., 6-5, 194)  
WR: D. Hart (Sr., 6-1, 194)\* D. Jackson (So., 6-2, 186)  
TE: T. Winn (Jr., 6-4, 245)\* C. Roberts (So., 6-6, 245)  
LT: J. Gray (So., 6-5, 363)\* R. Fielder (Sr., 6-4, 290)  
LG: C. Lowery (Jr., 6-4, 320) D. Martin (Jr., 6-3, 321)  
C: R. Haddon (Sr., 6-3, 288) S. Roberts (Jr., 6-4, 284)  
RG: E. Carruth (Sr., 6-4, 292) J. May (Fr., 6-4, 276)  
RT: J. Collingsworth (Sr., 6-5, 287)\* S. McFadden (So., 6-4, 327)

### DEFENSE

DE: M. Reagor (Sr., 6-3, 260)\* D. Williams (Fr., 6-2, 237)  
DT: C. Patton (Jr., 6-6, 310) J. Jones (So., 6-2, 275)  
DT: K. Kocurek (So., 6-5, 270) T. Patton (Jr., 6-2, 301)  
DE: T. Rucker (Jr., 6-0, 251)\* D. Lemons (So., 6-1, 202)  
LB: T. Ardoin (Sr., 6-0, 200)\* A. Terrell (So., 5-10, 163)  
LB: K. Shipley (Jr., 6-2, 230) S. Hooks (Fr., 6-3, 247)  
LB: K. McCullar (Jr., 6-3, 240)\* T. Duffie (Jr., 5-10, 203)  
CB: D. Brown (Sr., 5-11, 174)\* O. Solis (Jr., 5-8, 180)  
CB: B. Giddens (So., 5-10, 182) A. Alexander (So., 6-0, 176)  
SS: K. Cockrum (Jr., 6-2, 204) D. Pitts (So., 6-3, 190)  
FS: J. Norman (So., 6-1, 197) P. McClendon (Fr., 5-10, 165)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Greaser (Sr., 6-0, 180)\* C. Birkholz (So., 6-0, 170)  
P: J. Hernandez (Sr., 5-11, 208)\* B. Roberson (Jr., 6-2, 186)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONES

- Senior defensive end Montae Reagor needs one sack to tie the school career record of 18.5 held by Calvin Riggs.
- Spike Dykes' next victory will make him the winningest football coach in Tech history, passing Pete Cawthon.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.texastech.com



# Big West

By Mike Prater

The Big West Conference boasts an odd mixture of subplots, including this dandy: Boise State is poised to win its first Division I conference championship despite its fourth head coach in four seasons.

Utah State and Nevada, who have won five of the last six championships, face transition years in what should be a wide-open race. Idaho is looking at its fourth straight .500-type season, while North Texas and New Mexico State have questions to answer and plenty to prove.

That gives hope to Boise State, a third-year Division I program that returns 20 starters from last year's 4-7 team. Dirk Koetter replaces Houston Nutt, who left for Arkansas, and likes what he sees in the young Broncos. "They believe, there's no question about that. They believe," Koetter said. "They believe in themselves. They believe they've got what it takes to get it done and that's the key."

Eight of the league's top nine running backs return, including Nevada junior Chris Lemon. He led the league with 1,055 yards last season, but in a testament to the depth of talent at this position, he couldn't make this year's preseason all-conference team. Three of the five leading receivers are back, along with nine of the 11 top scorers and the league's two best kickers. All 12 interception leaders return, as do seven of 12 sack leaders.

Despite all that talent, the league's quarterback picture is thin. Boise State's Bart Hendricks is the top triggerman and he's a sophomore with six career starts.

Half of the six coaches are rookies—Utah State's Dave Arslanian, Boise State's Dirk Koetter and North Texas' Darrell Dickey.

## 1. BOISE STATE Broncos

**Coach:** Dirk Koetter, 1st year

**'97 Record:** 4-7 (3-2 conf.)

**Stadium/Location:** Bronco Stadium (30,000)/Boise, Idaho

**Key Players Lost:** Reggie Etheridge, RB; Brian Steger, DE

**Returning Starters:** 20 (10 off., 10 def.)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 CAL ST.-NORTHRIDGE; Sept. 12 WASHINGTON STATE; Sept. 19 PORTLAND STATE; Sept. 26 @ Utah; Oct. 3 @ Louisiana Tech; Oct. 10 NORTH TEXAS; Oct. 17 WEBER STATE; Oct. 24 UTAH STATE; Oct. 31 @ Nevada; Nov. 7 @ New Mexico State; Nov. 21 IDAHO

**Overview:** With 20 returning starters and seven home games, Dirk Koetter picked the perfect time to launch his head coaching career.

His primary chore: Figure out the quarterback situation, which shouldn't be hard for the former Idaho State quarterback and Oregon offensive coordinator. Koetter can choose between sophomore Bart Hendricks (87-165, 1,121 yards, 8 TDs, 7 INTs), a pocket passer who started the second half of last season, or scrambling senior Nate Sparks (74-155, 1,157 yards, 10 TDs, 4 INTs). At Oregon, Koetter employed the platoon system. He might do the same at Boise State, a former Division I-AA program with a 6-17 record in its first two years of Division I-A.

The Broncos could snap its losing skid

with the help of leading receiver Rodney Smith (64 catches, 917 yards, 9 TDs), five returning starters on the line and a capable committee of running backs.

On defense, the only position that's missing a returning starter is defensive end, but JUCO transfers Mike Maloy and Andy Bennett are looking for steady work. Like the team itself, junior linebacker Bryan Johnson (team-high 85 tackles) is ready for a huge season.

The Broncos have only two league road games, at Nevada and New Mexico State. The big game that could decide the league title: Oct. 24 in Bronco Stadium against Utah State.

## 2. NEVADA Wolf Pack

**Coach:** Jeff Tisdell, 3rd year, 14-9

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (4-1)

**Stadium/Location:** Mackay Stadium (31,545)/Reno, Nev.

**Key Players Lost:** Mike Edwards, OL (1st-team All-Big West); John Dutton, QB (1st-team All-Big West); James Cannida, DL (1st-team All-Big West); DeShone Myles, LB (1st-team All-Big West); Jason Sadler, OL (2nd-team All-Big West); Wade Platz, OL (2nd-team All-Big West); Damon Shea, K

**Returning Starters:** 13 (5 off., 8 def.)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Oregon State; Sept. 12 COLORADO STATE; Sept. 26 @ Fresno State; Oct. 3 @ UNLV; Oct. 10 NEW MEXICO STATE; Oct. 17 @ North Texas; Oct. 24 @ Idaho; Oct. 31 BOISE STATE; Nov. 7 @ Utah State; Nov. 14 CAL POLY-SLO; Nov. 21 SOUTHERN MISS

## ALL-BIG WEST TEAM

### OFFENSE

Pos	Player	College	Ht/Wt	Yr
QB	Bart Hendricks	Boise State	6-0/204	So.
RB	Dennis Manns	New Mexico St.	5-9/200	Sr.
RB	Demario Brown	Utah State	6-1/205	Jr.
WR	Geoff Noisy	Nevada	6-0/195	Sr.
WR	Rodney Smith	Boise State	6-0/220	Sr.
TE	Darin Higgins	Nevada	6-4/200	Jr.
OL	Phillip Armour	North Texas	6-4/275	Sr.
OL	Jermaine Belin	Boise State	6-4/325	Sr.
OL	Ken Watts	Utah State	6-4/303	Sr.
OL	Mike Lindsay	Utah State	6-2/308	Jr.
OL	Ryan Scuffy	Nevada	6-2/285	Jr.

### DEFENSE

DL	Scott Blank	North Texas	6-2/250	Sr.
DL	Jon Rydman	Boise State	6-2/263	Jr.
DL	Caleb Smith	Utah State	6-4/268	Jr.
DL	James Durrough	Idaho	6-0/244	Jr.
LB	Tony D'Amato	Utah State	6-0/246	Sr.
LB	Bryan Johnson	Boise State	6-1/228	Jr.
LB	Ryan Skinner	Idaho	5-11/228	Sr.
DB	Don Morgan	Nevada	5-11/190	Sr.
DB	Johndale Carty	Utah State	6-2/196	Sr.
DB	Reggie Mitchell	Nevada	6-1/180	Sr.
DB	Bryson Gardner	Idaho	6-0/199	Jr.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Garrett Courtney	North Texas	6-2/190	Sr.
P	John Baker	North Texas	6-3/207	Jr.
RS	B. McGrew	North Texas	6-2/205	Jr.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Offensive Player of the Year:** Demario Brown, Utah State

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Scott Blank, North Texas

**Newcomer:**

Jason Burk, Nevada

## PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Boise State
2. Nevada
3. Utah State
4. Idaho
5. North Texas
6. New Mexico State

**Overview:** Football fans in Reno are restless, so after last year's 5-6 downer, the Wolf Pack feel the pressure to rebound from their second losing season in 22 years.

"There's definitely more of a sense of urgency this year," third-year coach Jeff Tisdell said, "but with our tradition and athleticism, we'll still be somewhere near the top."

The cure starts with nine JUCO transfers and 12 seniors. The roster is deep with athletes, and there are plenty of skill players to



move the ball, but inexperience concerns Tisdell. That's especially true at quarterback, the centerpiece of an explosive system that has led the nation in total offense three of the past five seasons. JUCO prospect Erik Stidham will battle redshirt freshman Chris Olsen. Neither one has thrown a Division I pass. The Pack could even play freshman Mo Jones, a Kordell Stewart-type who plays quarterback, wide receiver as well as in the secondary.

Talent will surround whoever emerges at quarterback. Junior Chris Lemon led all Big West runners with 1,055 yards last year. Wide receivers Geoff Noisy (two-time All-Big West performer who had 86 catches for 1,184 yards and 5 TDs) and junior Trevor Insley (59 catches, 1,151 yards, 6 TDs) form the league's most potent catching combination. "Our key is finding the triggerman to seal the deal," Tisdell said. Replacing four of the five offensive linemen would help, too.

The defensive front line is also a concern. The staff is high on 6-foot-1, 235-pound linebacker Jason Burk, a JUCO transfer who could help fill the void left by former league defensive MVP DeShone Myles. The secondary is strong. Free safety Reggie Mitchell and cornerback Don Morgan each had three interceptions last season. They're also the top returning tacklers, with 80 and 68, respectively.

### 3. UTAH STATE Aggies

**Coach:** Dave Arslanian, 1st year

**'97 Record:** 6-6 (4-1)

**Stadium/Location:** Romney Stadium (30,257)/Logan, Utah

**Key Players Lost:** Ben Crosland, DL (Big West Defensive Player of the Year); Nakia Jenkins, WR (1st-team All-Big West); Mark Rommel, OL (1st-team All-Big West); Mauricio Jordan, OL (1st-team All-Big West); Steve Smith, WR/RS (1st-team All-Big West); Melvin Blue, RB (2nd-team All-Big West); Matt Sauk, QB (2nd-team All-Big West); John Latu, DL (2nd-team All-Big West); Todd Sofonia, LB (2nd-team All-Big West); Guillermo Chavez, TE

**Returning Starters:** 11 (4 off., 7 def.)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 UTAH; Sept. 12 @ New Mexico; Sept. 19 @ Colorado; Sept. 26 SAM HOUSTON STATE; Oct. 3 OREGON STATE; Oct. 10 @ Washington; Oct. 17 IDAHO; Oct. 24 @ Boise State; Oct. 31 @ New Mexico State; Nov. 7 NEVADA; Nov. 21 NORTH TEXAS

**Overview:** The best defense in the Big West will keep the Aggies in the title hunt while a new coaching staff reloads on offense. Coach Dave Arslanian makes the transition from Weber State to Utah State, the defending conference champion. He faces the pressure of replacing John L. Smith, a popular coach who took over at Louisville. Smith left his good buddy a non-conference schedule that includes Utah, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon State and

Washington.

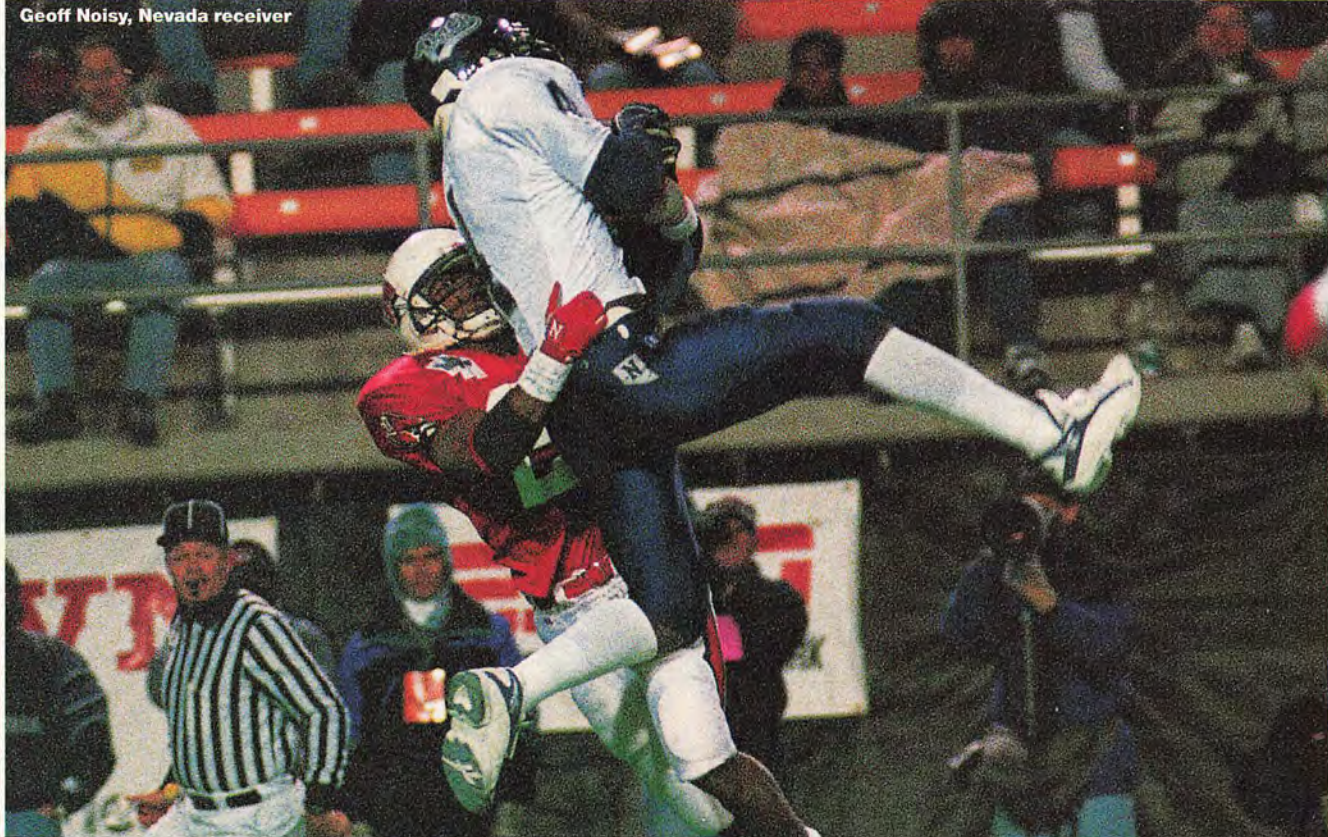
"The way I've explained it to the players is that we've got seven to eight big holes to fill. Who's going to step up and fill those holes?" Arslanian said. "I feel the same way about my responsibility. John L. left some big shoes to fill. I have to step up and fill those shoes."

The Aggies' biggest holes are at offensive line, wide receiver and quarterback, meaning the league's top scoring team in 1997 might have a hard time matching its 33.6 points per game.

Sophomore Brian Benza (9 of 18, 1 TD) is the only quarterback with experience and is battling senior Riley Jensen, freshman Logan Galli and sophomore Bryce Higbee. Wide receiver is young and thin, and three starters are missing from an offensive line that returns all-conference guards Mike Lindsay and Ken Watts. Running back Melvin Blue (741 yards, 9 TDs) transferred to Cal State-Northridge, but the Aggies still have 1997 All-Big West first-teamer Demario Brown (971 yards, 10 TDs) to dominate in a one-back system.

A defense that allowed only 367 yards and 23.7 points a game last season (that's good in the Big West) is loaded with returning starters. Ends Caleb Smith and Lindsay Hassell combined for 13 sacks. Senior Tony D'Amato is a beast at middle linebacker and all four starters return in the secondary.

Geoff Noisy, Nevada receiver





# Big West

## 4. IDAHO Vandals

**Coach:** Chris Tormey, 4th year, 17-16

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (2-3)

**Stadium/Location:** Kibbie Dome (16,000)/Moscow, Idaho

**Key Players Lost:** Antonio Wilson, WR (1st-team All-Big West); Tim Wilson, DL (1st-team All-Big West); Arnold Gunn, CB (1st-team All-Big West); Jeff Pankratz, TE (2nd-team All-Big West); Crosby Tajan, OL (2nd-team All-Big West); Brian Brennan, QB

**Returning Starters:** 11 (5 off., 6 def.)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 EASTERN WASHINGTON; Sept. 12 @ San Jose State; Sept. 19 @ Washington State; Sept. 26 @ Louisiana State; Oct. 3 IDAHO STATE; Oct. 10 @ Arkansas State; Oct. 17 @ Utah State; Oct. 24 NEVADA; Oct. 31 @ North Texas; Nov. 14 NEW MEXICO STATE; Nov. 21 @ Boise State

**Overview:** Following four years of lobbying, the NCAA finally granted Idaho Division I-A status last winter. The Vandals, despite competing in the Big West, had been officially Division I-AA because they didn't meet minimum stadium or attendance standards.

Now the Vandals have a plan, that sits well with the NCAA: Starting in 1999, Idaho will share Martin Stadium with Washington State. The Moscow, Idaho, and Pullman, Wash., campuses are eight miles apart.

The Vandals have a significant lack of experienced bodies at the skill positions. Quarterback Ed Dean, a 22-year-old sophomore who went on a Mormon mission, has the most experience with 66 attempts. Antonio Wilson and Deon Price had 116 catches and 13 touchdowns last season, but they are gone. That leaves junior Ryan Prestimonico (38 catches, 478 yards) as the featured receiver.

Running back Joel Thomas is back for his sixth season, thanks to a medical hardship (knee and foot injuries), and will share time with sophomore Anthony Tenner (562 yards as a freshman). Thomas could be the only senior who starts on offense; the line could include five sophomores.

Defense isn't a problem for the Vandals, who finished second in the league behind Utah State (380.3 yards per game). Junior James Durrrough, who had 10 sacks and 11 tackles for loss, moves from linebacker to end. Senior Ryan Skinner, who registered five sacks and 12 tackles for loss, is solid at middle linebacker.

In the secondary, junior free safety Bryson Gardner had four interceptions last season.

## 5. NORTH TEXAS Eagles

**Coach:** Darrell Dickey, 1st year

**'97 Record:** 4-7 (2-3)

**Stadium/Location:** Fouts Field (30,500)/Denton, Texas

**Key Players Lost:** Benny Cherry, LB (1st-team All-Big West); Ron Boston, LB; Robert Waddle, OL; Jason Mills, QB

**Returning Starters:** 14 (8 off., 6 def.)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Oklahoma; Sept. 12 vs. Texas Tech (Texas Stadium); Sept. 19 @ Arizona State; Sept. 26 @ Texas A&M; Oct. 10 @ Boise State; Oct. 17 NEVADA; Oct. 24 HOUSTON; Oct. 31 IDAHO; Nov. 7 @ Kansas; Nov. 14 @ Utah State; Nov. 21 NEW MEXICO STATE

**Overview:** Darrell Dickey, previously the offensive coordinator at Memphis (1989), UTEP (1994-96) and SMU (1997), took over in February when Matt Simon was fired after the recruiting season. Dickey inherits a team full of holes and one of the toughest schedules in college football.

The Mean Green lost their quarterback, top receiver, best offensive lineman and two of the best linebackers in school history. And the schedule starts with five straight games away from Fouts Field: Oklahoma, Texas Tech (Texas Stadium), Arizona State, Texas A&M and Boise State. The first home game—also homecoming—is Oct. 17 against league power Nevada. Other non-league games include Houston and Kansas.

At least the Mean Green should be more competitive on offense, which ranked last in yards (308.5 per game) and second to last in points (21.1). Dickey has ditched the UNT option and will run the offense out of an I-formation or a one-back set, with as many as four wideouts.

"I'd like to be wide open without being reckless," said Dickey, a quarterback on Kansas State's 1982 Independence Bowl team. "Our system is fairly simple, but looks complicated. I'm no genius, but I think we have a pretty good system."

The offensive strengths include senior running back Hut Allred, who rushed for 586 yards and five TDs, sophomore back Ja'Quay Wilburn, who rushed for 594 yards, and senior wide receiver Jay Young, who caught 36 balls for 552 yards and four TDs.

Sophomore quarterback LaDarrin McClane started two games last year, but completed only 22 of 64 attempts for one touchdown and four interceptions. There are four returning starters on the offensive line, led by first-team all-conference center Phillip Armour.

On defense, two bright spots belong to ends Scott Blank (league-best 13 sacks and 11 tackles for loss) and Corbin Epps-Montgomery (8 sacks, 10 tackles for loss).

Senior safety Phillip Littlejohn led the team with 76 tackles last season.

Special teams are solid with kicker Garrett Courtney (14 of 16 FGs), punter John Baker (47.2 average) and kick returner Broderick McGrew (24.1 average). McGrew also caught 10 passes last season, five for touchdowns.

## 6. NEW MEXICO STATE Aggies

**Coach:** Tony Samuel, 2nd year, 2-9

**'97 Record:** 2-9 (0-5)

**Stadium/Location:** Aggie Memorial (30,343)/Las Cruces, N.M.

**Key Players Lost:** Duane Gregory, WR (2nd-team All-Big West); Enrique Ramirez, DL (2nd-team All-Big West); Greg Beaman, S (2nd-team All-Big West)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (10 off., 7 def.)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Texas; Sept. 12 @ Georgia Tech; Sept. 19 NEW MEXICO; Sept. 26 TEXAS-EL PASO; Oct. 3 @ Arkansas State; Oct. 10 @ Nevada; Oct. 17 COLORADO STATE; Oct. 31 UTAH STATE; Nov. 7 BOISE STATE; Nov. 14 @ Idaho; Nov. 21 @ North Texas

**Overview:** The Aggies may not have the most exciting team in the league, but they do have two of the most exciting players—running back Denvin Manns and Deion Sanders-impersonator David Edwards, who will be a two-way player in 1998.

Manns has a chance to become the third player in Division I history to rush for 1,000 yards in four straight seasons. He has 3,223 career yards and could join the select company of Tony Dorsett (Pittsburgh, 1973-76) and Amos Lawrence (North Carolina, 1977-80).

Edwards, a junior from Lincoln, Neb., will play 75 percent at corner and 25 percent at wideout. The 6-1, 185-pounder runs the 40 in 4.37 and played five games for Nebraska as a freshman before transferring to Mount San Antonio (Calif.) CC last season.

Coach Tony Samuel's influence is attracting Cornhusker-type athletes to a program that has only one winning season in the last 19 years. Samuel is a former Nebraska assistant whose staff includes five former Cornhuskers players and three former 'Husker grad assistants.

The Aggies boast junior Ty Houghtaling, the most experienced quarterback in the league with 11 starts; senior wide receiver David Patterson, a two-time academic All-American who last year had 35 catches and a 3.94 GPA in math; and five returning starters on the line.

The offense should be decent with 10 starters back; the defense might get abused after allowing 465 yards and 36.2 points a game last season. Seven JUCO transfers could help.



### PREDICTED STANDINGS

1. Tulane
2. Southern Miss
3. Cincinnati
4. East Carolina
5. Houston
6. Louisville
7. Memphis
8. Army

### PLAYERS TO WATCH

#### Offensive

**Player of the Year**  
Shaun King,  
Tulane

#### Defensive

**Player of the Year**  
Roderick Coleman,  
East Carolina

#### Newcomer

Mark Word,  
Southern Miss

### 3 BIGGEST GAMES

#### ► Sept. 5

Tulane @ Cincinnati

#### ► Oct. 3

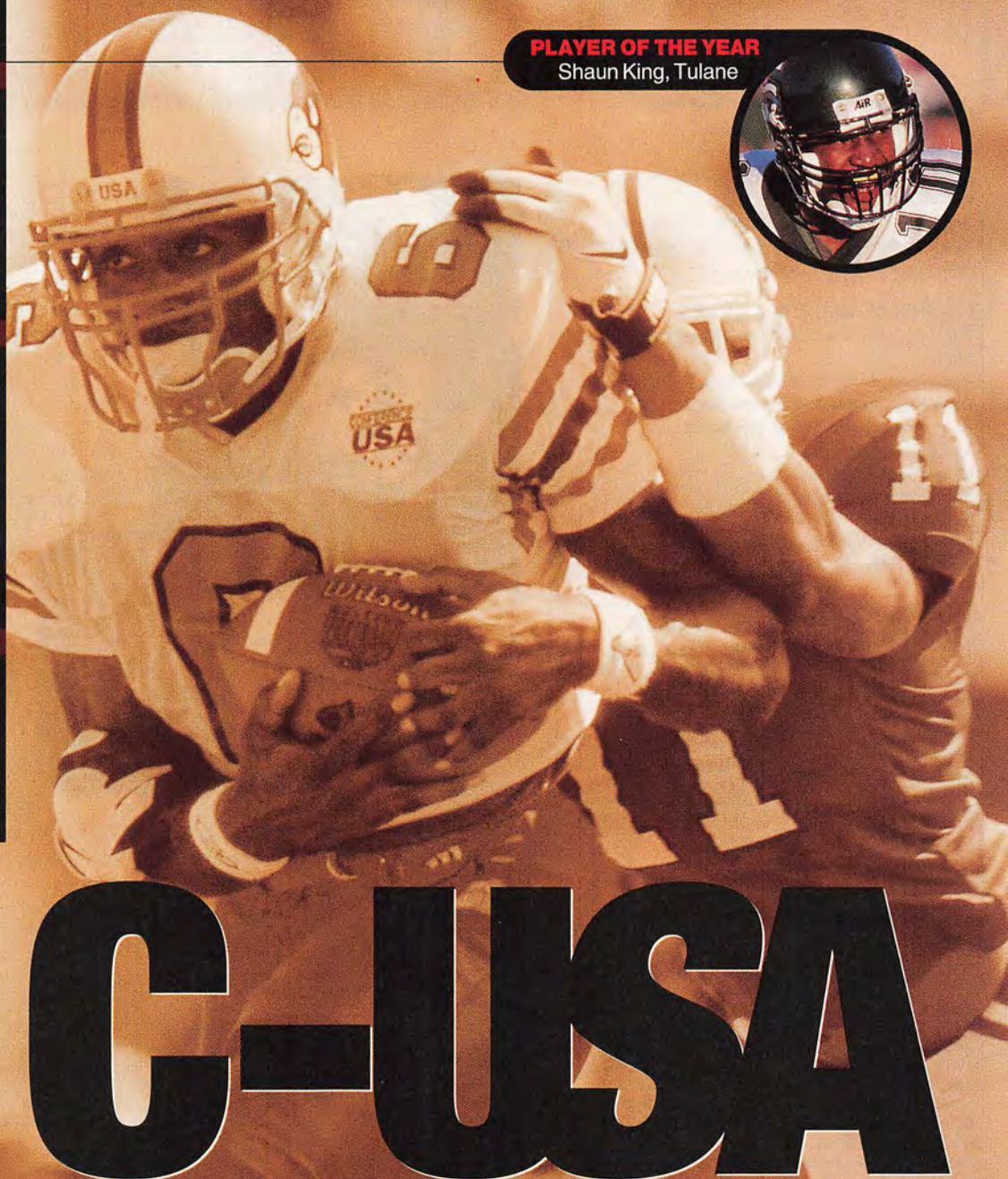
Southern Miss @ Tulane

#### ► Oct. 24

East Carolina @  
Southern Miss

### PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Shaun King, Tulane



# C-USA

## All-C-USA Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS	PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB:	Shaun King	6-0/215	Sr.	Tulane
RB:	Ketric Sanford	5-10/200	Jr.	Houston
RB:	Gerald Arnold	5-8/194	Jr.	Memphis
WR:	JaJuan Dawson	6-1/195	Jr.	Tulane
WR:	Sherrod Gideon	6-0/173	Jr.	Southern Miss
TE:	Ibn Green	6-2/230	Jr.	Louisville
OL:	Danny Moore	6-4/300	Sr.	East Carolina
OL:	Rick Nord	6-6/300	Sr.	Louisville
OL:	Brian Uhl	6-5/295	Sr.	Cincinnati
OL:	S. Blackmon	6-6/347	Jr.	Southern Miss
OL:	Henry McClendon	6-4/261	Sr.	Southern Miss
PK:	Brad Palazzo	5-11/185	Sr.	Tulane

### [DEFENSE]

POS	PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL:	Marquis Bowling	6-2/250	Sr.	Memphis
DL:	Adalius Thomas	6-2/249	Jr.	Southern Miss
DL:	Travis Darden	6-3/280	Sr.	East Carolina
DL:	Kevin Ward	6-1/292	Sr.	Cincinnati
LB:	Roderick Coleman	6-3/260	Sr.	East Carolina
LB:	Jeff Kerr	6-4/235	Jr.	East Carolina
LB:	Hassan Champion	6-1/228	Sr.	Cincinnati
DB:	Tinker Keck	6-1/203	Sr.	Cincinnati
DB:	Mike McKenzie	6-1/185	Jr.	Memphis
DB:	Michael Jordan	5-10/179	Sr.	Tulane
DB:	Courtney Dinkins	6-1/190	Jr.	Louisville
P:	Brad Hill	6-2/199	Sr.	Tulane

► First-team All-C-USA selection Ibn Green of Louisville led all D-I tight ends in receptions (55), receiving yards (731) and TDs (8) last year.



## ARMY Facts

**Coach:** Bob Sutton, 8th year, 38-39-1

**'97 Record:** 4-7

**Home Stadium:** Michie Stadium, West Point, N.Y.  
(39,929, artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 10 (5 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** OT Dave Beard, DT Scott Fagan, NG Jeff Forgach, LB Joe Sachitano

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Johnny Goff, Sr., 27-86-384 yards, 1 TD, 5 INTs

**Rushing:** Goff, 173 carries, 698 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Brad Miller, Sr., 8

**Receiving (Yards):** Rod Richardson, Sr., 129

**Tackles:** Ken Rowland, Sr., 54

**Sacks:** Scott Kozak, Jr., 1.5

**Interceptions:** Rowland, 2

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Eric Olsen, Sr., 12-15 FGs (long 40), 19-21 PATs

**Scoring:** Olsen, 55 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/12 MIAMI (OHIO)  
9/19 CINCINNATI  
9/26 @ Rutgers  
10/3 @ East Carolina  
10/10 @ Houston  
10/17 SOUTHERN MISS  
10/24 @ Notre Dame  
11/7 AIR FORCE  
11/14 TULANE  
11/21 @ Louisville  
12/5 vs. Navy\*

\*in Philadelphia

### 1997 RESULTS

MARSHALL; L, 35-25  
LAFAYETTE; W, 41-14  
@ Duke; L, 20-17  
MIAMI (OHIO); L, 38-14  
@ Tulane; L, 41-0  
RUTGERS; W, 37-35  
COLGATE; W, 35-27  
@ Air Force; L, 24-0  
NORTH TEXAS; W, 25-14  
@ Boston College; L, 24-20  
NAVY; L, 39-7

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Goff (Sr., 6-2, 196)\* J. Gerena (So., 6-1, 203)  
FB: T. Amey (Sr., 5-11, 222) C. Stucker (Sr., 5-11, 219)  
RB: B. Williams (Sr., 6-1, 210)\* B. Rooney (Jr., 5-9, 180)  
RB: R. Lalumondier (Sr., 6-0, 205)\* R. Ferri (Jr., 5-11, 214)  
WR: R. Richardson (Sr., 5-8, 171)\* G. Jett (Jr., 6-0, 182)  
TE: S. Castillo (Jr., 6-3, 232) J. Benson (Sr., 6-5, 251)  
LT: N. Ravitz (Sr., 6-3, 271)\* J. Karpuk (So., 6-5, 261)  
LG: N. Allard (Sr., 6-3, 295) B. Hodari (Sr., 6-3, 285)  
C: M. Guzman (Sr., 6-1, 275) M. Prehar (Jr., 6-3, 275)  
RG: G. McIngvale (Sr., 6-2, 280) J. Gonzalez (So., 6-2, 276)  
RT: B. Connolly (Sr., 6-5, 284) J. Posey (Sr., 6-3, 277)

### DEFENSE

DE: D. Hageman (Jr., 6-2, 245)\* J. Bundt (Jr., 6-2, 227)  
DT: J. Stanyer (Sr., 6-3, 263) B. King (Sr., 6-2, 246)  
NG: S. Kozak (Jr., 6-3, 265) W. Thiele (Sr., 6-0, 251)  
DE: R. Sporer (So., 6-1, 236) C. Holmes (Jr., 6-3, 235)  
LB: C. Suito (Sr., 6-1, 242) M. Jackson (Jr., 6-1, 234)  
LB: A. King (Jr., 6-3, 225) N. Huperton (Jr., 6-0, 216)  
LB: B. Kelley (Jr., 6-1, 221) L. Weaver (So., 6-0, 213)  
CB: J. Mullen (Sr., 6-0, 186)\* A. Burke (So., 5-8, 170)  
CB: T. Coaxum (Jr., 5-10, 190)\* S. Williams (Sr., 5-10, 166)  
SS: T. Gatlin (Sr., 5-11, 192) D. McNally (So., 6-0, 191)  
FS: K. Rowland (Sr., 6-3, 163)\* C. Daniels (Jr., 5-10, 195)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: E. Olsen (Sr., 5-10, 188)\* M. Parker (Jr., 6-2, 175)  
P: G. White (Jr., 5-10, 186) E. Olsen (Sr., 5-10, 188)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Army will play in a conference for the first time this season after 108 years as an independent.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.usma.edu/athletics

# Army



BOBBY WILLIAMS-RB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Goff must improve as a passer.
- The offensive and defensive fronts must come alive.
- Army needs to adjust to life in a conference.

You can bet Army coach Bob Sutton wanted to roll into his school's first-ever year in a conference with a little more momentum than the Cadets were able to muster last year. Army followed up its groundbreaking 1996 season by staggering on offense, particularly in the passing game, and by losing its ability to prevent opponents from running the football. The resulting 4-7 record forced Sutton to re-evaluate his entire roster, switch players to and from the depth chart and enter this season wondering whether the Cadets can get back to the heights they reached in '96.

"As it unfolded last year, we had to play some people we didn't think we would have to," Sutton said. "I hope that makes those guys farther along this year, especially on the defensive front. I think we'll be a better football team on that alone."

Maybe, but there's no guarantee the results will indicate that. In addition to playing six Conference USA games, Army must also tackle Notre Dame, Air Force and Navy. With questions at quarterback and along both fronts, this may be yet another transition year. Gone are the I-AA patsies that helped the Cadets pad their ground-game stats. Beginning with a Sept. 12 visit from Miami (Ohio), Army will play 10 straight weeks against real, live competition. No doubt Sutton's considerable abilities will help Army play better than it did last year. But that won't necessarily translate into more wins. There's too much to do in one year for that to happen.

### OFFENSE

By the end of last season, Army's opponents were able to put all 11 men, the band, the mascot and half the alumni into the box along the line of scrimmage. That's how bad the Cadet passing game was. If senior Johnny Goff is to keep his job under center, he'll have

to complete more than 31.4 percent of his passes. Sutton can talk about dropped balls, but the fact remains that Army gets about 10-15 opportunities to throw the ball a game, and it must execute. If Goff doesn't get it done, look for promising soph Joey Gerena to take over. Whoever survives will throw to senior Rod Richardson, who has good speed.

There is no shortage of running backs at West Point, although talented senior fullback Joe Hewitt's career could be over in light of his post-concussion syndrome problems. That's a big loss, but Army still boasts halfbacks Bobby Williams and Rob Lalumondier and fullback

Ty Amey in a deep backfield.

They'll run behind a revamped front that returns only one starter from last year. Leading the way is senior left tackle Neil Ravitz, who moves over from guard. If the front five comes together, and if Goff can become more reliable passing, Army should return to its trademark, bruising option ground attack.

### DEFENSE

The healthy return of senior tackle Joe Stanyer could fortify the Cadet front four, which must play with more consistency than last year's unit did. He's joined by junior nose man Scott Kozak and steady end David Hageman.

Another returnee, senior Chad Suito, mans the "Knight" or strong side linebacking position. He is aggressive against the run and quick enough to handle coverage duties. But he needs help. Last year's two starters are gone, and juniors Adisa King and Brandon Kelley don't have much experience.

Last year at this time, the Cadets were faced with a rebuilding job in the secondary for a second straight year. With eight lettermen and three starters back, that is not a concern this year. Senior Kenny Dale Rowland moves to free safety from the strong spot and is a good run supporter, while senior corner Jamar Mullen is a fine coverage man who can step up against the run, too.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Although not blessed with tremendous range, senior kicker Eric Olsen is extremely accurate inside 40 yards (11-of-12 last year). Junior punter Graham White, on the other hand, has a big leg but needs consistency. Richardson should be one of the league's most dangerous kickoff return men, but the Cadets need to find someone to bring back punts.

### RECRUITING

Army does not release the names of its new players until the summer.

By Michael Bradley





TINKER KECK-FS

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Kenner must emerge as a reliable passer.
- The linebacking corps must step up.
- Cincinnati's offensive line must play with the same power as last year's crew.

Before any Cincinnati fans think last year's 8-4 record and Humanitarian Bowl championship are solid signals that the school is well on its way to becoming a player on the national scene, consider that the game trophy is currently on display in coach Rick Minter's office.

There is no football trophy case on campus. Until now, there hasn't been any need. Last year's bowl win, 35-19 over Utah State, was the second in school history, and the first in 51 years. Cincinnati hasn't won a conference title of any kind since 1964 and hasn't found its way into a final poll in its entire 107-year gridiron history. Putting the Humanitarian hardware in some big, roomy case might just underscore the program's historic futility. That definitely wouldn't fit into Minter's plans. "Our program is striving for recognition," said Minter, who enters his fifth year at the school. "We feel good about the direction we're heading but don't want to fall into the trap of predicting the future by using the past."

That's a good philosophy, particularly since Cincinnati will miss 12 fifth-year seniors from last year's team. There is talent back on the team, particularly quarterbacks Chad Plummer and Deontey Kenner, tailback Robert Cooper and scintillating safety/return specialist Tinker Keck. If Cincinnati wants to build a case, much less fill it, those guys will have to help build on last year's success. Otherwise, Minter's office will continue to pull double duty.

## OFFENSE

Senior "quarterback" Chad Plummer's numbers from the Humanitarian Bowl (four catches for 64 yards, 53 yards rushing, one TD pass thrown) make it easy to understand why Minter said, "he's one of those graceful athletes who win games when you put the ball in his hands." Plummer will line up at quarter-

back, wideout, wingback, halfback and might even return kicks. That means Kenner, a talented sophomore, could be crouching under center about 50 percent of the time.

Leading ground gainer Robert Cooper should be fine after offseason surgery to repair a hairline fracture in his leg. He'll team with junior Eric Beal, who returns after missing last year with a torn ACL, and Orlando Smith in what could be a highly productive backfield. That is, unless the inexperienced Cincinnati offensive front doesn't develop. That uncertainty could prevent the Bearcats from playing the power game they favored last year, and makes Plummer and wideout Cornelius Bonner more important.

## DEFENSE

Even though Rob Ryan has moved on to Oklahoma, the Bearcats will continue their aggressive, eight-man-front ways under new coordinator Kim Dameron, who had been in charge of the UC secondary. Let's hope the scheme carries the day, because there are some personnel questions. At linebacker, Rob Lucas must become a big producer in the middle or Kwesi Daniels could take the job, while quick senior Hassan Champion has to emerge as a force on the outside. Up front, last year's starting right end, Percy Evans, has been moved to tackle to join holdover Kevin Ward.

The secondary is led by Keck, an exciting player who had four interceptions and was the nation's most dynamic return man. Minter expects even more production from Keck this year, now that the former JUCO transfer has a year of Division I-A ball under his belt. Unfortunately, the rest of the secondary doesn't inspire such confidence, especially since returning starter DeJuan Gossett has been moved from strong safety to outside linebacker.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Keck brought back four punts for TDs in '97. Minter wants to use Plummer on kickoffs this year, but don't be surprised to see Keck doing that, too. Sophomore Jason Mammarelli has a big leg but accuracy problems, and UC might use junior Joe Judge on short placement tries. Kenner will likely handle the punting.

## RECRUITING

The Bearcats certainly stocked up on running backs. DeMarco McCleskey had a nice year with 1,814 yards and 22 TDs in 1997. Even more remarkably, 5-7 Nathan Wize ran for 3,101 yards and 51 scores in his first year as a back. Wize was a first-down machine, averaging 11.6 yards every time he ran the ball.

By Michael Bradley

## CINCINNATI Facts

**Coach:** Rick Minter, 5th year, 22-22-1

**'97 Record:** 8-4 (2-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Nippert Stadium, Cincinnati (35,000; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 12 (6 off., 6 def.)

**Key Players Lost:** LB Brad Jackson (1st-team All-C-USA); LB Phillip Curry (1st-team All-C-USA); OT Jason Fabini (1st-team All-C-USA); OG Joel Dolinski (2nd-team All-C-USA); OT Pierre Brilliant (2nd-team All-C-USA); DE Derrick Ransom (2nd-team All-C-USA); FB Landon Smith

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Chad Plummer, Sr., 87-190-1,178 yards, 6 TDs, 10 INTs

**Rushing:** Robert Cooper, Jr., 137 carries, 611 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Cornelius Bonner, Sr., 27, 1 TD

**Receiving (Yards):** Bonner, 366

**Tackles:** Hassan Champion, Sr., 110

**Sacks:** Tinker Keck, Sr., David Jackson, Sr., Ted Grubb, Sr., 2

**Interceptions:** Keck, 4

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** Plummer, 42 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 TULANE  
9/12 MIAMI (FLA.)  
9/19 @ Army  
9/26 INDIANA  
10/3 @ Louisville  
10/10 @ Syracuse  
10/17 @ Memphis  
10/24 MIAMI (OHIO)  
11/7 EAST CAROLINA  
11/14 HOUSTON  
11/21 @ Arkansas State

## 1997 RESULTS

TULSA; W, 34-24  
@ Tulane; L, 31-17  
KANSAS; W, 34-7  
@ Boston College; W, 24-6  
MEMPHIS; W, 20-6  
UAB; W, 33-29  
@ Houston; L, 41-38  
@ Miami (Ohio); W, 34-31  
SOUTHERN MISS; L, 24-17  
LOUISVILLE; W, 28-9  
@ East Carolina; L, 14-7  
vs. Utah State; W, 35-19\*

\*Humanitarian Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: D. Kenner (So., 6-2, 180) C. Plummer (Sr., 6-3, 230)\*  
RB: O. Smith (Sr., 6-0, 245) R. Cooper (Jr., 5-11, 206)  
RB: E. Beal (Jr., 6-0, 235) D. Vitovitz (Jr., 6-1, 235)  
WR: C. Bonner (Sr., 6-0, 185)\* T. Smikle (So., 6-3, 215)  
WR: J. C. Baker (So., 5-10, 185)\* T. Walker (Fr., 5-11, 166)  
TE: J. Anderson (Sr., 6-3, 259)\* A. Hunt (So., 6-5, 245)  
LT: B. Uhl (Sr., 6-5, 295)\* T. Forrest (Fr., 6-5, 310)  
LG: V. Byrd (Sr., 6-2, 296) J. Dixon (Fr., 6-3, 330)  
C: D. Rosfeld (So., 6-4, 275) J. Lisek (So., 6-4, 277)  
RG: K. Biggs (Jr., 6-5, 290)\* D. Johnston (Fr., 6-1, 265)  
RT: D. Scheithe (Jr., 6-3, 302) S. Edwards (Jr., 6-9, 290)

### DEFENSE

DE: D. Jackson (Sr., 6-2, 235) P. Stephens (Fr., 6-6, 230)  
DT: P. Evans (Sr., 6-3, 260) D. Savage (Sr., 6-2, 310)  
DT: K. Ward (Sr., 6-1, 292)\* K. R. Augustus (Jr., 6-1, 278)  
DE: T. Grubb (Sr., 6-3, 245) D. Vitovitz (Jr., 6-1, 237)  
LB: H. Champion (Sr., 6-1, 228)\* E. Johnson (So., 5-11, 230)  
LB: R. Lucas (Sr., 6-0, 240) K. Daniels (Jr., 5-11, 215)  
LB: D. Gossett (So., 5-10, 192)\* G. Hergott (Jr., 6-2, 212)  
CB: S. Ferguson (Sr., 5-7, 180)\* J. Burrow (Jr., 5-8, 180)  
CB: D. McKnight (Sr., 5-9, 175) F. Smith (So., 6-0, 188)  
FS: T. Keck (Sr., 6-1, 203)\* B. Fuller (Jr., 5-11, 170)  
SS: E. Harper (Sr., 5-11, 202)\* C. Sykes (Sr., 6-2, 200)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Judge (Jr., 5-11, 181) J. Mammarelli (So., 6-1, 205)  
P: D. Kenner (So., 6-2, 180) J. Mammarelli (So., 6-1, 205)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Cincinnati is the only team that will play both Miami (Florida and Ohio) this season.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.uc.edu/www/bearcats



## EAST CAROLINA Facts



# East Carolina

**Coach:** Steve Logan, 7th year, 36-32

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (4-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Dowdy-Ficklen, Greenville, N.C. (43,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 14 (5 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Dwight Henry, CB (2nd-team All-C-USA); Scott Harley, RB; Dan Gonzalez, QB; Jason Nichols, WR; Tabari Wallace, CB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Bobby Weaver, So., 4-8-5-yards, 1 INT

**Rushing:** Jamie Wilson, So., 87 carries, 292 yards, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Troy Smith, Jr., 54, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Smith, 795

**Tackles:** Jeff Kerr, Jr., 167

**Sacks:** Roderick Coleman, Sr., 15

**Interceptions:** Kelvin Suggs, Sr., 3

**Punting:** Andrew Bayes, Jr., 43.4 avg.

**Kicking:** Bayes, 6-9 FGs, (47 long), 1-1 PAT

**Scoring:** Wilson, 30 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Virginia Tech  
9/12 UT-CHATT.  
9/19 @ Ohio  
10/3 ARMY  
10/10 UAB  
10/17 @ Alabama  
10/24 @ Southern Miss  
10/31 HOUSTON  
11/7 @ Cincinnati  
11/14 LOUISVILLE  
11/21 @ Memphis

### 1997 RESULTS

@ W. Virginia; L, 24-17  
WAKE FOREST; W, 25-24  
SOUTH CAROLINA; L, 26-0  
@ Syracuse; L, 56-0  
SOUTHERN MISS; L, 23-13  
@ Tulane; L, 33-16  
MEMPHIS; W, 32-10  
@ Louisville; W, 45-31  
@ Houston; W, 28-27  
CINCINNATI; W, 14-7  
@ N.C. State; L, 37-24

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: E. Tinnin (Sr., 6-1, 205) B. Weaver (So., 6-0, 190)  
FB: J. Wilson (So., 6-1, 201) L. Henry (Fr., 6-1, 220)  
HB: M. Harris (So., 5-10, 180) T. Mazyck (Fr., 6-2, 180)  
SE: T. Smith (Jr., 6-3, 180)\* A. Powell (Fr., 6-4, 205)  
WR: L. Chappell (Jr., 6-1, 180) A. Harris (Fr., 6-3, 180)  
WR: A. Collins, (Sr., 6-3, 280)\* R. Burns (So., 6-3, 240)  
LT: D. Ledford (Sr., 6-5, 275) C. Russell (Sr., 6-4, 290)  
LG: M. Corbett (Jr., 6-3, 285)\* R. Whaley (So., 6-2, 280)  
C: D. Moore (Sr., 6-4, 300)\* R. Emery (So., 6-2, 270)  
RG: S. Laceywell (So., 6-2, 280) C. Nelson (So., 6-6, 285)  
RT: S. Jones (So., 6-3, 290) A. Nobles (So., 6-7, 345)\*

### DEFENSE

DT: N. McCleary (Sr., 6-4, 295)\* A. Walker (Fr., 6-3, 285)  
NG: T. Darden (Sr., 6-3, 280)\* M. Ahmadu (So., 6-1, 240)  
DT: B. Johnson (Sr., 6-3, 265) D. Claybrooks (So., 6-3, 250)  
LB: R. Coleman (Sr., 6-3, 260)\* F. Claybrooks (Jr., 6-3, 240)  
LB: J. Kerr (Jr., 6-4, 235)\* E. Reyes (So., 6-2, 230)  
LB: P. Griffin (Fr., 6-3, 235) K. Green (Jr., 6-1, 246)  
LB: M. Yellock (So., 6-4, 235)\* B. Bentley (Sr., 6-2, 225)  
CB: F. Foster (Jr., 5-10, 175) C. Robinson (Fr., 6-0, 175)  
CB: K. Monroe (Jr., 6-1, 185) C. Satterfield (So., 5-11, 195)  
SS: K. Phillips (Sr., 6-3, 215)\* D. McKeithan (Sr., 6-2, 210)  
FS: K. Suggs (Sr., 6-3, 195)\* T. Taylor (Sr., 6-3, 195)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Rivers (Jr., 6-0, 180)\* A. Bayes (Jr., 6-3, 200)  
P: A. Bayes (Jr., 6-3, 200)\* N. Crabtree (Jr., 5-10, 210)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

•Troy Smith, who set an East Carolina single-season record with 54 receptions, now has 85 for his career and needs 57 more to move into second place behind Jason Nichols, who finished his career with 152 last year.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.ecupirates.com



KELVIN SUGGS-FS

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Get out of a two-man quarterback rotation as quickly as possible.
- Solidify the offensive line.
- Find some depth in the secondary.

East Carolina coach Steve Logan learned last year that wishing and hoping and planning and praying doesn't lead to football wins. Talent and experience guarantee them, and the Pirates didn't have enough of those two qualities in 1997 to replicate their strong 8-3 campaign of the previous season. "We hoped against hope we could put together a winning season after losing 24 seniors [from the '96 club], but we underachieved a little," Logan said.

The Pirates may have finished 4-2 in C-USA play, but they did well to finish 5-6 after getting off to a 1-5 start. And Logan is right about the underachieving part. Running back Scott Harley, who entered the year as the nation's leading returning rusher, managed just 457 yards for the season and didn't score a touchdown. The ECU defense surrendered way too many yards and points. And the team had a minus-two turnover margin, not at all a number which Pirates fans have become accustomed to seeing.

Now comes the clean-up. Logan promises a more physical, focused team. But with new faces at quarterback and in the featured running back spot, the offense could struggle early. And if the secondary doesn't get it together quickly, ECU may be susceptible to the pass again.

### OFFENSE

Logan is convinced the Pirates will be using two quarterbacks come September, but he's not sure which two. A three-man race under center pits senior lefty Ernest Tinnin, a strong thrower, against speedy soph Bobby Weaver and big, versatile redshirt frosh David Garrard. Only Weaver saw time last year, completing three of four passes. Look out for Garrard, who has the most natural ability of the three. Whoever is under center will be running more, since Logan and his staff added

some more option plays into the offense during spring drills.

Soph Jamie Wilson has plenty of speed and should begin the season at fullback, but redshirt freshman Leonard Henry has bulked up to 220 pounds and will provide a stiff challenge. The rest of the skill spots are set. Junior Troy Smith comes off a 54-catch season in '97. Soph Marcellus Harris had 27 receptions last year and is a reliable H-back.

Up front, last year's inexperience and mistakes should become this year's strength. Logan used plenty of youngsters in 1997, and should have much more consistency along the line this time. Standout senior center Danny Moore leads a group that should have two sophomore starters and four second-year men among the backups.

### DEFENSE

Seven starters return here, but they must play with more consistency than last year, when four opponents scored more than 30 points against the Pirates. Leading the way are all-conference linebackers Jeff Kerr, a junior who made 167 tackles last year, and Roderick Coleman, who had 15 sacks. Senior nose guard Travis Darden (eight sacks) anchors an experienced front line that includes senior ends Norris McCleary and Brian Johnson, who combined to make 13 stops behind the line in '97. The starting secondary looks good, but Logan is concerned about depth. Senior safeties Kendrick Phillips and Kelvin Suggs return, but junior Forrest Foster and soph Chris Satterfield will be first-year starters on the corners.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Two out of three ain't bad. Junior punter Andrew Bayes averaged 43.4 yards per kick last year and was second-team all-conference, while Harris gained 10.9 yards every time he returned a punt. But the kicking situation is shaky. Bayes made six of nine field goals attempts last year and showed some leg at times, and junior Brantley Rivers nailed half of his four tries, but one needs to emerge as a reliable placement specialist.

### RECRUITING

The linebacking corps got quite a boost on signing day. Leading the way is 6-2, 220-pounder Andre Cannon, although Ivan Butler and Ben Thomas are both expected to contribute some day. The other big name on the list is defensive back B.J. Cameron, who brings good size (6-1, 185) and speed to an area that needs help now.

By Michael Bradley





KETRIC SANFORD-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Houston must avoid the injuries that helped torpedo last year.
- McKinley must establish himself as a first-class starting quarterback.
- The young defense needs some heroes—fast.

How's this for a rebuilding recipe: Take a graduation-ravaged defense. Mix it with questions at quarterback. Throw in a schedule that includes a pair of top-10 hopefuls and four of the last five on the road. Stir. Cry.

That's what Kim Helton and the Cougars face this year. After following up their 1996 Conference USA title with a 3-8 campaign that featured 14 major injuries, Houston must move forward with several things working against it. The schedule is one of them.

"Our schedule makes no sense," Helton said. "But we've been handed it, and we'll try to make an opportunity out of it, instead of a tragedy. We don't want to sound like crybabies, so we'll go play the damn thing."

Houston opens the year at California, then faces Minnesota, UCLA and Tennessee, before opening the C-USA season with home games against Memphis and Army. Then comes an open date—before North Texas, hardly an imposing foe. "That's ridiculous," Helton said. The season's final five weeks include four road games. Looks like that young defense had better grow up quickly. So must soph quarterback Jason McKinley, who showed flashes of talent last year but still has a long way to go. At least junior running back Ketric Sanford looks healthy and ready for big things. With Southern Mississippi, East Carolina, Tulane and Cincinnati all expected to have solid teams, it looks like Houston is in for another tough year.

## OFFENSE

Helton had wanted McKinley to separate himself from Tyson Helton (the coach's son) during spring drills, but McKinley couldn't do it. "It's Jason's job, but he has to play well to keep it," Helton said. That means completing more than 52.1 percent of his passes, like he

did in '97, and improving on a 9-to-11 touch-down-to-interception ratio. Sanford doesn't need to do anything different—except stay healthy. He missed almost half of last year after an emergency appendectomy but has the speed and power to put up big numbers. Senior Vaughn Inniss, who filled in well for Sanford last year, adds depth, as does a deep crop of newcomers, led by JUCO import Mike Green. Tight end Scott Regimbald, who caught 25 passes last year, is another big weapon. The wideout situation was improved during spring drills, when sophs Kendall Williams, a converted cornerback, and Damien Montgomery joined impressive soph Orlando Iglesias in what could be a potent trio. And Helton is cheered by the improvement of his offensive line. Although there remain some battles for playing time, he expects to have a solid front five, led by junior left guard Greg Brown.

## DEFENSE

Now for the problems. The front seven looks barren, save outside rush backer Micah Malone, a junior with plenty of speed and good instincts. He recovered three fumbles last year. Helton was concerned that the Cougar front three didn't look particularly physical during spring drills. Expect junior nose man Mike DeRoussele to be the leader up front, although JUCO newcomer T.J. Light could make an immediate impact. Malone is the main linebacker, but senior Louis Hampton, who missed last year with a knee injury, has potential. The secondary, meanwhile, must improve from the past two years, when it was particularly weak. Strong safety Stedmon Forman looks solid but everybody in the Cougar defensive backfield had better be ready to play come August, when a slew of newcomers, led by JUCO talent Kenny Hill, arrives.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cougars lost both of their specialists, a huge blow, given that each—punter Ignacio Saucedo and kicker Sebastian Villarreal—was pretty good. Senior Mike Waddell gets first crack at the placement job, while soph Ivan Luna should be the punter. Sanford is one of the nation's best kickoff return men.

## RECRUITING

Light, Hill and Green, each of whom went to Blinn (Texas) JC, lead the recruiting haul, with freshman defensive back Greg Holte and rookie defensive lineman Rufus Williams the best of the rest. This is a huge (27 newcomers) class that includes seven JUCO transfers.

By Michael Bradley

## HOUSTON Facts

**Coach:** Kim Helton, 6th year, 14-41-1

**'97 Record:** 3-8 (2-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Robertson Stadium, Houston, Texas (20,500; grass); Astrodome, Houston, Texas (60,000; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 11 (8 off., 3 def.)

**Key Players Lost:** Ben Fricke, C (1st-team All-C-USA); Leonta Rheams, DE (2nd-team All-C-USA); Malik Ledbetter, S; Vaughn Washington, LB; Sebastian Villarreal, K

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jason McKinley, So., 166-314-1, 910 yards, 9 TDs, 11 INTs

**Rushing:** Ketric Sanford, Jr., 151 carries, 636 yards, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Orlando Iglesias, So., 33, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Iglesias, 529

**Tackles:** Micah Malone, Jr., 70

**Sacks:** Malone, Mike DeRoussele, Jr., Louis Hampton, Sr., 2

**Interceptions:** Stedmon Forman, Sr., 1

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** Sanford, 20 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ California  
9/12 MINNESOTA  
9/19 UCLA  
9/26 @Tennessee  
10/3 MEMPHIS  
10/10 ARMY  
10/24 @ North Texas  
10/31 @ East Carolina  
11/7 SOUTHERN MISS  
11/14 @ Cincinnati  
11/21 @ Tulane

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Alabama; L, 42-17  
CALIFORNIA; L, 35-3  
PITTSBURGH; L, 35-24  
@ Minnesota; W, 45-43  
@ UCLA; L, 66-10  
CINCINNATI; W, 41-38  
@ Louisville; W, 36-22  
@ Memphis; L, 24-3  
EAST CAROLINA; L, 28-27  
@ Southern Miss; L, 33-0  
TULANE; L, 44-10

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. McKinley (So., 6-3, 222)\* T. Helton (Jr., 6-2, 192)  
RB: K. Sanford (Jr., 5-10, 200)\* V. Inniss (Sr., 5-9, 194)  
HB: D. Montgomery (So., 5-10, 160) K. Williams (So., 5-10, 185)  
WR: H. Spencer (Jr., 5-9, 182) R. Edwards (Sr., 5-10, 190)  
WR: O. Iglesias (So., 6-3, 215)\* J. deGroot (Sr., 5-10, 182)  
TE: S. Regimbald (Jr., 6-2, 229)\* J. Dennis (Sr., 6-2, 255)  
LT: J. Lovelady (So., 6-3, 320)\* J. Beauford (Fr., 6-4, 310)  
LG: G. Brown (Jr., 6-1, 295)\* R. Hendrickson (So., 6-3, 296)  
C: J. Medford (Jr., 6-4, 284) T. Novosad (Sr., 6-0, 292)  
RG: W. Brown (Sr., 6-2, 305)\* N. Woody (So., 6-4, 280)  
RT: J. Stille (Jr., 6-4, 290)\* C. Johnson (6-3, 315)

### DEFENSE

DE: P. Owens (Sr., 6-6, 282) M. Knepper (Jr., 6-2, 283)  
NT: M. DeRoussele (Jr., 6-2, 295) P. James (Jr., 6-3, 270)  
DE: A. Belli (Jr., 6-6, 256) J. Griffith (Fr., 6-4, 280)  
LB: M. Malone (Jr., 6-2, 208)\* W. Ervin (Fr., 6-1, 210)  
LB: W. Rogers (So., 6-2, 236) T. Walker (Sr., 6-1, 238)  
LB: S. Hairston (So., 6-2, 240) B. Stogner (Fr., 6-2, 238)  
LB: L. Hampton (Sr., 6-2, 240) A. Charles (Jr., 6-2, 240)  
CB: D. Boxill (Sr., 5-10, 172) S. Scott (So., 5-7, 181)  
CB: W. Fields (Jr., 5-10, 175)\* F. Conley (So., 5-8, 188)  
SS: S. Forman (Sr., 5-8, 204)\* E. Wilson (So., 5-10, 193)  
FS: E. White (So., 6-0, 210) D. Williams (So., 5-8, 172)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: M. Waddell (Sr., 6-0, 195) J. Saavedra (Fr., 5-7, 176)  
P: I. Luna (So., 5-11, 210) M. Waddell (Sr., 6-0, 195)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Quarterback Jason McKinley was the second Cougar in a row to win the C-USA Freshman of the Year award; running back Ketric Sanford won the year before.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.uh.edu/athletics



# LOUISVILLE Facts



# Louisville

**Coach:** John L. Smith, 1st year; 69-39 overall

**'97 Record:** 1-10 (0-6 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Papa John's Cardinal Stadium, Louisville, Ky. (45,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (8 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Kendrick Gholston, DE (1st-team All-C-USA); Miguel Montano, WR (2nd-team All-C-USA); Terry Rice-Lockett (2nd-team All-C-USA)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Chris Redman, Jr., 261-445-3,079 yards,

18 TDs, 14 INTs

**Rushing:** Frank Moreau, Jr., 120 carries, 573 yards, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Ibn Green, Jr., 55, 8 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Green, 731

**Tackles:** Courtney Dinkins, Jr., 68

**Sacks:** Mike Gantous, Jr., 4

**Interceptions:** Don Bibb, Jr., 3

**Punting:** Jeremy Borseth, Sr., 40.4 avg.

**Kicking:** Jon Hilbert, Sr., 6-7 FGs (long 38); 23-24 PATs

**Scoring:** Green, 48 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 KENTUCKY  
9/12 @ Utah  
9/19 @ Illinois  
9/26 BOSTON COLL.  
10/3 CINCINNATI  
10/10 @ Southern Miss  
10/17 @ Tulane  
10/24 MEMPHIS  
10/31 W. KENTUCKY  
11/14 @ East Carolina  
11/21 ARMY

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Kentucky; L, 38-24  
UTAH; L, 27-21  
ILLINOIS; W, 26-14  
PENN STATE; L, 57-21  
@ Oklahoma; L, 35-14  
@ Southern Miss; L, 42-24  
TULANE; L, 64-33  
HOUSTON; L, 36-22  
EAST CAROLINA; L, 45-31  
@ Cincinnati; L, 28-9  
@ Memphis; L, 21-20

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: C. Redman (Jr., 6-3, 205)\* M. Watkins (So., 6-4, 200)  
RB: F. Moreau (Jr., 6-2, 230)\* R. Williams (Sr., 5-8, 200)  
WR: Y. Ware (Jr., 6-6, 200) C. Sheffield (Jr., 6-2, 190)  
WR: A. Jackson (Jr., 5-9, 165)\* B. McDonald (So., 5-9, 170)  
WR: L. Boyd (Jr., 6-4, 205) D. Mosby (Jr., 5-8, 160)  
TE: I. Green (Jr., 6-2, 230)\* J. Sholly (Sr., 6-2, 240)  
LT: A. Byrd (Jr., 6-5, 285)\* R. Eble (Fr., 6-7, 275)  
LG: J. Suski (Jr., 6-5, 305)\* C. Lennon (Fr., 6-5, 265)  
C: P.J. Zariczny (Sr., 6-2, 280) A. Dardzinski (Fr., 6-2, 265)  
RG: B. Nord (Sr., 6-6, 300)\* J. O'Shaughnessy (So., 6-2, 290)  
RT: M. Grivna (Jr., 6-10, 330)\* J. Richardson (Jr., 6-6, 280)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Dennis (Sr., 6-3, 233) M. Sexton (So., 6-2, 235)  
DT: D. Kennedy (Jr., 6-5, 270) G. Johnson (Fr., 6-3, 290)  
DT: M. Gantous (Jr., 6-3, 290)\* A. Bonner (So., 6-3, 280)  
DE: B. Anderson (So., 6-5, 270) R. Zilko (So., 6-2, 235)  
LB: R. Harris (So., 6-3, 210)\* C. Goodman (Sr., 6-3, 220)  
LB: B. Herring (So., 6-3, 220) B. Shively (Sr., 6-1, 205)  
LB: O. Floyd (Sr., 6-5, 220)\* M. Corley (So., 6-2, 210)  
CB: D. Bibb (Jr., 6-1, 180)\* J. Boykin (Fr., 5-10, 180)  
CB: B. Holman (So., 5-10, 175) K. Matthews (Jr., 5-11, 180)  
SS: C. Dinkins (Jr., 6-1, 190)\* T. Stallings (Fr., 6-0, 185)  
FS: X. Burrell (So., 6-2, 200) D. Purry (Sr., 5-10, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Hilbert (Sr., 6-2, 225)\* N. Bennett (Sr., 6-0, 175)  
P: J. Borseth (Sr., 6-2, 200)\* J. Hilbert (Sr., 6-2, 225)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

•Chris Redman has thrown for over 300 yards in exactly 50 percent of his 16 career starts.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.louisville.edu/athletics



CHRIS REDMAN-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Hit somebody! The Cards slipped to 95th in total D last season.
- Block somebody! Louisville averaged 2.9 yards per carry.
- Beat Kentucky to end an eight-game losing streak in the series.

As Louisville prepares to move into its sparkling new on-campus stadium, the Cardinals have brought in someone who they believe can sweep away the grumbling from last season's ugly 1-10 finish, a finish that cost Ron Cooper his job after only three seasons.

Mr. Fix-It is a guy named Smith—John L. Smith, who had the same role at Utah State, where he led the Aggies into the Humanitarian Bowl last season. Now he must make repairs at a new address, but he's optimistic about the team he's inherited. "We feel we can compete for the conference championship right away," Smith said. "There are pieces in place that show us this can be a good football team."

Smith arrives with a reputation as a quarterback guru, and he has a talented one to work with in Chris Redman. With a skilled group of receivers returning, the Cardinals will throw the ball more than ever. On defense, Louisville's defensive philosophy will switch from read-and-react to attack the ball.

## OFFENSE

Redman is on track to move past Johnny Unitas, Browning Nagle and Jeff Brohm in the Louisville record book. He set school records for passing attempts, completions and yardage last season, when he threw for 3,079 yards. But Redman needs to reduce his INTs (14).

Chief among his receiving options is tight end Ibn Green, the Cards' possession receiver. Arnold Jackson and Lavell Boyd are the deep threats. Jackson averaged nearly 15 yards per catch, while the taller Boyd came on late in the year to make 14 receptions.

Tailback Frank Moreau, who made a solid comeback after missing a season with knee surgery, figures to get first call in Smith's one-back set. But Louisville has averaged fewer than 100 yards per game rushing for two consecutive seasons, so Leroy Collins, a speedy JUCO transfer, will also get a look.

Seven veteran offensive linemen will be playing for their third offensive line coach in three seasons. The Cards have to find a way to average better than 2.9 yards per carry.

## DEFENSE

There is probably more work to be done on this side of the ball, as last season the Cardinals gave up at least 21 points in 10 of their 11 games. Mike Gantous leads the experienced group that returns up front. He'll be joined on the inside by Derrick Kennedy, a skilled player who turned down offers from UCLA and Tennessee to play for Louisville. Rounding out the front four will be Braxton Anderson and James Dennis. Although Cooper suffered from having to play two true freshmen at linebacker, Smith should reap the benefits. Both Rashad Harris and Bud Herring showed speed and tenacity, and each delivered a pair of interceptions. Harris was only 17 when he

started the season at middle linebacker, and Herring moved up from the special teams to average nine tackles over the last four games. Still, overall depth is a major problem here.

Nearly everybody threw deep on the Louisville secondary last season, and it could be more of the same in '98. Junior cornerback Don Bibb, who intercepted three passes, is the only returnee to start 11 games at the same position. Courtney Dinkins, the leading returning tackler who saw action at both cornerback and safety, also returns.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cards finished the season by losing to Memphis on a blocked punt for a touchdown, a fitting end to what was a season-long struggle on special teams. Jeremy Borseth has a solid leg, but erratic coverage dropped the Cards to 110th in the nation in net punting average. Placekicker Jon Hilbert is consistent from close range, but failed to show the ability to drive the long kick last season. Nate Bennett could displace him.

## RECRUITING

Like most new coaches Smith got a late start, especially on the in-state scene, where Kentucky cashed in on the solid first season delivered by Hal Mumme and Tim Couch. Smith signed only 18 players. Look for Collins to emerge at running back. Robert Garth, a 6-3, 220-pound wide receiver, arrives from City College of San Francisco, where he caught 43 balls for a dazzling 801 yards.

By Rick Bozich





# Memphis



MARQUIS BOWLING-DE

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a quarterback.
- Solidify the offensive line.
- Rebuild the linebacking corps.

The building is about done at Memphis. It's time to win. Rip Scherer knows that. He knows he came to

town with a reputation for crafting high-flying offenses at James Madison and hasn't been able to do the same with the Tigers. He knows that a hierarchy is being established in Conference USA, and the Tigers don't want to remain a second-division club for too long. He knows how the Memphis fans think and feel about him and their team. Does he ever.

"Personnel-wise and experience-wise and as far as quality of players, we're a lot further ahead than at any point since we've been here," Scherer said. "We have players we can win with and be productive with." That would be nice.

Last year's Tigers stumbled to a 4-7 record and couldn't manage a victory over any team that had a winning record. And though Memphis played pretty stingy defense, particularly at home, it didn't provide much offensive excitement—even with Bernard Oden under center. This year's unit will have a new quarterback, and it had better be ready quickly. The Tigers play three of their first five games against SEC members and the other two (Minnesota and Houston) are on the road. "If we're fortunate enough to win early, we'll be a candidate for the SEC West championship," Scherer said with a laugh.

Memphis fans will settle for some improved offensive production and a run for the C-USA title. Of course, Scherer knows that too.

## OFFENSE

The spring quarterback race was a three-man affair, with Scherer's praising all the candidates' mental skills but understanding that they have different physical strengths. Soph Kenton Evans is the athletic one. Classmate Steven Galbraith has a good feel for the game. And redshirt freshman Neil Suber is big and

strong. Although the early money is on Evans, should none of them prevail, then transfer Michael Harris, who will be eligible in the fall, could figure as an option alternative. Damien Dodson (45 receptions) and Richie Floyd (38) lead a deep receiving corps. Although junior Gerard Arnold missed the first four games of the '97 season, he still rushed for a team-leading 613 yards. He enters the '98 season stronger and faster than last year and should be able to break some longer runs. He'll have plenty of company in the backfield, thanks to the presence of Teofilo Riley and Jeff Sanders, not to mention a high-

ly-regarded crop of incoming freshman backs, led by Darnice Wherry. They'll work behind a line that has potential but must grow up together. The main man is senior Ron Sells, who moves from center to left tackle, while redshirt freshman guard Artis Hicks has promise.

## DEFENSE

Any discussion of this topic must begin with senior end Marquis Bowling, who had 16 tackles for loss and 11 sacks last year. "He plays with a high-speed motor," Scherer said. There is plenty of talent among the rest of the front four, since all of last year's starters return. Junior end Tramont Lawless (nine sacks) is another big-play defender. The same stocked cabinet is not true at linebacker, where only impressive soph Kamal Shakir is back among regulars. Scherer hopes soph outside man Ian Williams can make an impact this year. There is depth, however, in the secondary. Three starters, including All-C-USA cornerback Mike McKenzie, head a strong unit.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

This area needs work. Gone is four-year punter Drew Paimore, and Memphis needs to find a new regular from walk-on Matt Adams, JUCO newcomer Ben Graves and kicker Jim Cande, who made 6 of 9 field goal tries last year. Dodson (12.1-yard average) ranked 20th in the nation in punt returns last year, while P.T. Jones showed potential by bringing back eight kicks for an average of 27.3 yards.

## RECRUITING

The undeniable gem of the '98 recruiting haul is Wherry, who was rated by most as the best running back in the state. Joining him as possible impact players are fellow running back Darnice Epting, wideout Derrick Harmon, defensive back Marcus Smith and offensive lineman Trey Eyre.

By Michael Bradley

## MEMPHIS Facts

**Coach:** Rip Scherer, 4th year, 11-22; 40-41 overall  
**'97 Record:** 4-7 (2-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tenn.  
(62,380; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (8 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Bernard Oden, QB; Chris Reeves, LB; Don Haselwood, SS

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** None

**Rushing:** Gerard Arnold, Jr., 145 carries, 613 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Damien Dodson, Jr., 45, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Richie Floyd, Jr., 617

**Tackles:** Mike McKenzie, Jr., 72

**Sacks:** Marquis Bowling, Sr., 11

**Interceptions:** Jeremy Stewart, Sr., Keith Cobb, Sr., McKenzie, 2

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Jim Cande, Jr., 6-9 FGs (long 42), 18-20 PATs

**Scoring:** Cande, 36 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Mississippi  
9/12 MISSISSIPPI ST.  
9/19 @ Minnesota  
10/3 @ Houston  
10/10 ARKANSAS  
10/17 CINCINNATI  
10/24 @ Louisville  
10/31 ARKANSAS ST.  
11/7 TULANE  
11/14 @ Southern Miss  
11/21 EAST CAROLINA

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Mississippi St.; L, 13-10  
UAB; W, 28-7  
@ Michigan State; L, 51-21  
MINNESOTA; L, 20-17  
@ Cincinnati; L, 20-17  
ARKANSAS STATE; W, 38-9  
@ East Carolina; L, 32-10  
HOUSTON; W, 24-3  
@ Tulane; L, 26-14  
LOUISVILLE; W, 21-20  
SOUTHERN MISS; L, 42-18

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: K. Evans (So., 6-3, 200) S. Galbraith (So., 6-0, 203)  
RB: G. Arnold (Jr., 5-8, 194)\* J. Sanders (Fr., 5-11, 194)  
FB: R. Bailey (So., 5-11, 218) B. Tucker (Jr., 5-10, 225)\*  
WR: D. Blevins (Sr., 6-3, 212) R. Floyd (Jr., 6-1, 195)\*  
WR: D. Dodson (Jr., 5-9, 164)\* K. Coutain (Jr., 6-2, 211)  
TE: R. Hedgepeth (So., 6-3, 235) B. Kendall (So., 6-5, 227)  
LT: B. Sells (Sr., 6-5, 288)\* D. Sherrod (Fr., 6-5, 316)  
LG: A. Hicks (Fr., 6-4, 281) J. Gibson (Fr., 6-2, 279)  
C: C. Powers (Sr., 6-4, 270)\* J. Austin (Jr., 6-4, 298)  
RG: T. Seymour (Jr., 6-1, 292)\* J. Eargle (Fr., 6-2, 265)  
RT: T. Middlebrooks (Jr., 6-3, 312) L. Esposito (Jr., 6-5, 325)\*

### DEFENSE

DE: M. Bowling (Sr., 6-2, 247)\* M. Santibanez (Sr., 6-3, 236)\*  
DT: C. Lewis (So., 6-3, 276) J. Slaton (So., 6-3, 265)  
DT: T. J. Frier (Sr., 6-2, 299)\* M. Bell (So., 6-2, 295)  
DE: T. Lawless (Jr., 6-3, 239)\* R. Lancot (So., 6-2, 220)  
LB: C. Stiles (So., 6-0, 220) D. Shank (So., 5-11, 230)  
LB: K. Shakir (So., 6-0, 229)\* C. Irby (Jr., 5-10, 229)  
LB: M. Boatman (So., 6-1, 226) I. Williams (So., 6-4, 228)  
CB: K. Cobb (Sr., 5-10, 174)\* M. Smith (Fr., 5-10, 185)  
CB: M. McKenzie (Jr., 6-1, 185)\* F. Powell (So., 5-10, 190)  
SS: K. Irby (So., 6-0, 185) I. Bashir (Fr., 6-2, 192)  
FS: J. Stewart (Sr., 6-0, 202)\* J. Harris (Jr., 6-2, 192)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Cande (Jr., 6-1, 185)\* R. White (Fr., 5-10, 183)  
P: M. Adams (Jr., 6-1, 206) B. Graves (Jr., 6-3, 190)

\*Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Senior receiver Richie Floyd and junior receiver Damien Dodson both rank in the top 25 on Memphis' all-time receiving list.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.people.memphis.edu/~athletics



## SOUTHERN MISS Facts

**Coach:** Jeff Bower, 8th year, 49-35-1 overall

**'97 Record:** 9-3 (6-0 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** M.M. Roberts Stadium, Hattiesburg, Miss., (33,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (8 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Harold Shaw, RB (1st-team All-C-USA); Marchant Kenney, LB (1st-team All-C-USA); Patrick Surtain, DB (1st-team All-C-USA)

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Lee Roberts, Sr., 194-350-2,248 yards, 16 TD, 9 INTs

**Rushing:** Kelby Nance, So., 37 carries, 161 yards

**Receiving (Catches):** Sherrod Gideon, Jr., 54, 9 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Gideon, 1,008

**Tackles:** Brian Bell, Sr., 85

**Sacks:** Adalius Thomas, Jr., 9

**Interceptions:** Larry Watts, Sr., 2

**Punting:** Jamie Purser, Jr., 42.2 avg.

**Kicking:** Tim Hardaway, Sr., 13-of-16 FGs (long 49), 33-34 PATs

**Scoring:** Hardaway, 72 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Penn State  
9/12 N'WESTERN ST.  
9/19 TEXAS A&M  
10/3 @ Tulane  
10/10 LOUISVILLE  
10/17 @ Army  
10/24 EAST CAROLINA  
10/31 @ Alabama  
11/7 @ Houston  
11/14 MEMPHIS  
11/21 @ Nevada

### 1997 RESULTS

@ Florida; L, 21-6  
@ Illinois; W, 24-7  
NEVADA; W, 35-19  
@ Alabama; L, 27-13  
LOUISVILLE; W, 42-24  
@ East Carolina; W, 23-13  
TULANE; W, 34-13  
@ Cincinnati; W, 24-17  
@ Tennessee; L, 44-20  
HOUSTON; W, 33-0  
@ Memphis; W, 42-18  
vs. Pittsburgh; W, 41-7\*  
\*Liberty Bowl

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: L. Roberts (Sr., 6-1, 197)\* B. Balazik (So., 6-1, 180)  
RB: K. Nance (So., 6-2, 224) B. Francis (Jr., 5-7, 183)  
RB: T. Pinkston (Jr., 6-3, 164)\* D. Fowler (Fr., 5-11, 170)  
WR: S. Gideon (Jr., 6-0, 173)\* R. Walls (So., 5-11, 170)  
WR: K. Heard (Sr., 5-11, 170) E. Shaw (Sr., 5-11, 183)\*  
TE: T. Nolan (So., 6-4, 228) N. Causey (Sr., 6-4, 237)  
LT: H. McClendon (Sr., 6-4, 261)\* A. Franklin (So., 6-5, 252)  
LG: R. Davidson (Sr., 6-5, 275) M. Vige (Sr., 6-3, 266)  
C: F. Firestone (Sr., 6-2, 265)\* J. Hopgood (Sr., 6-3, 269)  
RG: S. Blackmon (Jr., 6-6, 347)\* T. Chambers (Fr., 6-4, 270)  
RT: O. Pope (Jr., 6-5, 345)\* B. Bell (Jr., 6-6, 277)

#### DEFENSE

DE: C. Scott (So., 6-5, 249) D. Scott (So., 6-3, 249)  
NG: D. Scott (So., 6-2, 273)\* G. Mumford (So., 6-3, 245)  
DT: J. Nix (So., 6-3, 280)\* D. Stewart (So., 6-4, 275)  
DE: A. Thomas (Jr., 6-4, 249)\* M. Brown (Jr., 6-2, 222)  
LB: T. Trahan (Jr., 6-2, 225) R. Magee (Fr., 6-2, 230)  
LB: T. J. Slaughter (Jr., 6-2, 214) R. Bell (Jr., 6-2, 233)  
LB: B. Bell (Sr., 6-1, 215)\* D. Verdell (So., 6-4, 193)  
CB: D. Mallard (Sr., 5-10, 186)\* D. Brutley (Fr., 5-11, 180)  
CB: T. Parrish (Jr., 5-10, 183) P. Belchar (Fr., 6-2, 225)  
SS: J. Gonzalez (Sr., 5-10, 187) J. Williams (Sr., 5-10, 189)  
FS: C. Smith (Sr., 6-2, 197) Z. Houston (So., 6-3, 219)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

P: J. Purser (Jr., 6-0, 190)\* J. Gabriel (Sr., 5-10, 168)  
K: T. Hardaway (Sr., 5-9, 160)\* M. Mitchell (Jr., 6-0, 182)

\*Denotes returning starter

#### MILESTONE

• Southern Miss is one of 13 Division I-A programs that has won at least eight games in each of the last two seasons.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.athletics.usm.edu



# Southern Miss



ADALIUS THOMAS-DE

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The Golden Eagles must solidify their secondary.
- A reliable frontline running back must emerge.
- The young front seven must continue to grow.

The Golden Eagles are messing with their reputation. Success will do that. After two consecutive Conference USA titles, USM finds itself looking at a 1998 schedule with five home games. That may not seem so amazing to fans of schools like Florida and Alabama, which routinely play six, or even seven, at home, but it's big-time news in Hattiesburg. Southern Mississippi previously has played in "The Rock" only four times a year. At this rate, USM may lose its status as one of the nation's orneriest road foes and begin to look like everybody else on the college football landscape.

It's a trade-off coach Jeff Bower would no doubt accept. If Southern Miss is going to become a full-fledged league power—and it's well on the way to that already—it must stop playing seven road games every year. It's not good for business. What kind of a league has its champion travel all over looking for games. Thus the importance of this year's schedule.

Sure, three of the home games are against conference foes. But Texas A&M is coming to town Sept. 19, and that marks a big change in the way things are done. "The conference has given us credibility," Bower said. "Before, it wasn't the right thing to do to play Southern Mississippi at Southern Mississippi. But now, it's attractive."

The Golden Eagles have been mixing the same tough defense and balanced offense for years now and don't figure to stop in '98. The returns of quarterback Lee Roberts, wideout Sherrod Gideon and defensive end Adalius Thomas give Bower a good nucleus to chase a third title.

#### OFFENSE

Last year's offense may have been the most productive in school history, since for the first time, USM had a quarterback throw for more than 2,000 yards, a receiver with more than

1,000 yards and a running back top four figures. Roberts (2,248 yards, 16 TDs) and Gideon (54 catches, 9 scores) return as the league's most dangerous pitch-and-catch combo, but the Eagles must find a replacement for departed tailback Harold Shaw. The early leader for that role is soph Kelby Nance, although Bower has his eye on redshirt freshman Dwayne Woods, who was the all-time leading prep rusher in Louisiana. JUCO newcomer Anthony Rockette may take over the tight end spot for departed all-league performer Terry Hardy. The offensive front looks solid, thanks to a trio of senior starters and a

right side that includes mountainous juniors Shederick Blackmon and O'Lester Pope.

#### DEFENSE

If USM weren't so renowned for its defensive strength, the losses of three all-league defensive backs, including conference Defensive Player of the Year Patrick Surtain, plus standout linebacker Marchant Kenney might be crippling. But the Eagles always have a tough defense, and this year it will be built around a young, but talented, front seven that includes Thomas, a 6-4, 249 rush end who had 15 tackles for loss last year, and junior T.J. Slaughter, who makes the move to middle linebacker from the outside. Look out for JUCO newcomer Mark Word, who is a rare blend of size and speed. Bower has faith in corners Terrance Parrish and DeShone Mallard and expects safeties Jose Gonzalez and Chandler Smith to be strong. But, just in case, he imported a pair of JUCO backs, Kerrie Washington and Joey Pinkston.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

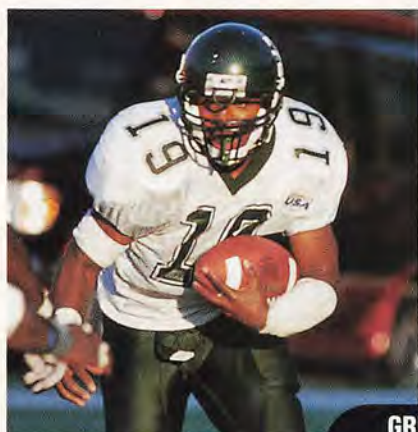
Although all-conference kick returner Eric Booth is gone, USM has a pair of punters and a kicker back. Expect junior Jamie Purser, who averaged 42.2 yards on 16 punts last year, to take over the job from senior Jack Gabriel, while senior Tim Hardaway continues his solid placement work. He made 13 of 16 last year, including 3 of 4 from beyond 40 yards.

#### RECRUITING

The Golden Eagles added seven JUCO newcomers among their 27 signees, with Word likely to make the biggest impact—for a year. That's all the eligibility he has left. Among the incoming freshmen, linebackers Jimmy Holloway, considered by some one of the top five at his position in the South, and Chris Langston join tight end Buck Miciotto as the most highly regarded.

By Michael Bradley





JAMAICAN DARTZ-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- King must play at a consistently high level.
- Bowden must find replacements for his two leading tacklers at linebacker as well as for defensive end Keaton Cromartie.
- Start fast. The Green Wave open with a pair of road games.

What was that you were saying to Tommy Bowden about a year ago? That he had typed in everything but the date on the termination papers for his career by giving up his job as an assistant coach at Auburn to take over at Tulane, which had not celebrated a winning season since 1981? That with his name and his connections, he should have waited at Auburn a few more years until a better and safer opportunity came along?

That's not what you hear on the New Orleans campus or throughout Conference USA today. What they're asking Bowden today is: Can you overtake Southern Mississippi, win the league and take this program to the Liberty Bowl—and beyond?

Could happen. Bowden greets 18 returning starters from a team that finished 7-4 and won six of its last eight, hanging huge offensive numbers at several stops. All but one of the offensive starters returns, and although the defense has several majors holes, Bowden has groomed some young replacements. Both of his kickers rank among the best in the South, and Tulane signed its best recruiting class in 20 years—or more. No wonder they're talking about the Green Wave washing into their first bowl appearance since the 1987 Independence Bowl.

## OFFENSE

Now the world knows why Notre Dame, Nebraska and several other schools tried to recruit quarterback Shaun King four years ago. After watching him throw for 24 touchdowns and 2,567 yards and run for five more scores and 511 yards, C-USA coaches voted King the league's Offensive Player of the Year.

King's primary receivers are P.J. Franklin and JaJuan Dawson. They combined for 110 receptions, 1,542 yards and 18 touchdowns—

and Dawson missed the final three games with a broken ankle. King also can break you down with his legs, sprinting outside and then downfield when the action calls for it. "We have some flexibility in our offense to give the quarterback a lot of freedom," Bowden said. "We just have to see how much freedom he can handle."

Probably quite a bit. But when King needs to catch his breath, he can turn to a pair of proven runners in Toney Converse and Jamaican Dartez. A pair of arm fractures limited Dartez to six games, but he delivered a 167-yard performance against Southwestern Louisiana—the best by a Tulane back in 19 years. Converse had a pair of 100-yard games while averaging nearly six yards per carry.

Tight end Mike Turner is primarily a blocker, so he strengthens an offensive line that loses only one starter from a group that allowed only 11 sacks.

## DEFENSE

Bowden is admired for his innovative offensive thinking, but he will have to find answers on defense this season. The departure of his two top tacklers as well as his

top pass rusher leaves him looking for replacement parts.

One to watch is tackle Dennis O'Sullivan, who can play both the run and the pass and has started the last 28 games. Linebacker Brett Timmons is small, but is relentless and had 15 tackles for a loss. Look for junior Derrick Perry to help immediately as Bowden tries to add speed to the mix.

Tulane led the nation with 26 interceptions last season and all of the sticky hands return in the secondary. Senior cornerback Michael Jordan led the group with five picks, and free safety Alphonso Roundtree delivered 61 tackles and four INTs.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

If Tulane can't score or stop you, they still have a chance to kick you into submission. Kicker Brad Palazzo led the nation with 23 field goals, including eight of 40 yards or longer. Brad Hall's 46.2 yard punting average ranked fourth nationally and set a Tulane record.

## RECRUITING

Bowden brought in Tulane's first Top 30 recruiting class in years. He signed three players—WR Terrell Harris, QB Derrick Joseph and OL Torie Taulli—from Archbishop Shaw High in New Orleans. Keep an eye on halfback Genarrio Reshard, a burner from Gainesville, Fla.

By Rick Bozich

## TULANE Facts

**Coach:** Tommy Bowden, 2nd year, 7-4

**'97 Record:** 7-4 (5-1 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La. (69,767; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 18 (10 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Cory Geason, OT (1st-team All-C-USA); Terence Cook, DT (2nd-team All-C-USA); Keaton Cromartie, DE (2nd-team All-C-USA)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Shaun King, Sr., 199-363-2,567 yards, 24 TDs, 14 INTs

**Rushing:** Toney Converse, So., 137 carries, 777 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** P.J. Franklin, Sr., 58, 8 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Franklin, 703

**Tackles:** Brett Timmons, Sr., 84

**Sacks:** Dan O'Sullivan, Sr., 5

**Interceptions:** Alphonso Roundtree, Sr., 5

**Punting:** Brad Hill, Sr., 46.2 avg.

**Kicking:** Brad Palazzo, Sr., 23-28 FGs (long 52), 40-41 PATs

**Scoring:** Palazzo, 109 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Cincinnati  
9/12 @ SMU  
9/26 NAVY  
10/3 SOUTHERN MISS  
10/17 LOUISVILLE  
10/24 @ Rutgers  
10/31 SW LOUISIANA  
11/7 @ Memphis  
11/14 @ Army  
11/21 HOUSTON  
11/26 LA. TECH

## 1997 RESULTS

CINCINNATI; W, 31-17  
RICE; L, 30-24  
@ Syracuse; L, 30-19  
ARMY; W, 41-0  
@ Louisville; W, 64-33  
E. CAROLINA; W, 33-16  
@ Southern Miss; L, 34-13  
@ SW Louisiana; W, 56-0  
MEMPHIS; W, 26-14  
MISSISSIPPI; L, 41-24  
@ Houston; W, 44-10

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: S. King (Sr., 6-0, 215)\* J. Curtis (Sr., 5-11, 187)  
RB: J. Dartez (Sr., 5-8, 191) T. Converse (So., 5-8, 164)\*  
FB: O. Woods (Jr., 5-11, 235) B. Smith (Fr., 5-10, 202)  
WR: J. Dawson (Jr., 6-1, 195)\* K. Cook (So., 6-0, 174)  
WR: P.J. Franklin (Sr., 5-10, 175)\* J. Wilson (So., 5-5, 177)\*  
TE: M. Turner (Jr., 6-3, 246)\* M. Truax (So., 6-1, 247)  
LT: B. Robertson (So., 6-4, 270)\* B. McFarland (So., 6-5, 264)  
LG: J. Godfrey (Jr., 6-3, 287)\* B. Westbrook (So., 6-3, 282)  
C: K. Conley (Jr., 6-1, 290)\* T. Cunningham (So., 6-0, 275)  
RG: M. Gumbiel (Sr., 6-4, 275)\* K. Wood (Fr., 6-3, 289)  
RT: C. Caldwell (So., 6-3, 287) K. Ordeneaux (Jr., 6-6, 301)

### DEFENSE

DE: M. Cuellar (Sr., 6-3, 251) B. Hamilton (So., 6-5, 222)  
DT: P. Henderson (Sr., 6-4, 263) D. Crockett (So., 6-3, 279)  
DT: D. O'Sullivan (Sr., 6-4, 293)\* M. Mouton (So., 6-4, 258)  
DE: K. Reavis (Sr., 6-3, 240) T. Latos (Sr., 6-3, 256)  
LB: D. Perry (Jr., 6-0, 224) J. Mouton (Fr., 6-0, 225)  
LB: W. Blair (Jr., 6-1, 227) C. Green (So., 6-3, 227)  
LB: B. Timmons (Sr., 5-11, 209)\* J. Phillips (So., 6-0, 221)  
CB: M. Jordan (Sr., 5-10, 177)\* K. Joseph (So., 5-10, 172)  
CB: A. Phillips (So., 6-0, 188) T. Carter (So., 6-1, 181)  
SS: T. Carr (Sr., 6-0, 189)\* C. Jones (So., 5-11, 194)\*  
FS: A. Roundtree (Sr., 5-10, 185)\* S. Knight (So., 5-11, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Palazzo (Sr., 5-11, 185)\* C. Roussel (Fr., 6-1, 211)  
P: B. Hill (Sr., 6-2, 199)\* C. Roussel (Fr., 6-1, 211)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Wide receiver P.J. Franklin has also played for Perry Clark's Green Wave basketball team for the last two seasons. He started at guard during the second half of the season to become the first Tulane player to start in those two sports in 54 years.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.tulane.edu



## By Don VanderVeen

It didn't take long for Randy Moss mania to catch on in the Mid-American Conference. It didn't last long, either. Marshall rejoined the MAC in 1997 after a 29-year hiatus, and the Thundering Herd's talented wide receiver brought the Heisman Trophy closer to the MAC than it has ever been. Moss caught an NCAA-record 25 touchdown receptions and, after finishing fourth in the 1997 Heisman Trophy race, passed up his final two years of eligibility at Marshall to play in the NFL. So what's left for the MAC? Plenty.

For starters, Miami (Ohio) junior tailback Travis Prentice rushed for as many touchdowns (25) as Moss caught during his 1997 monster sophomore season. Kent junior wide receiver Eugene Baker averaged more pass receptions per game (9.36) than Moss (7.50). And Marshall junior quarterback Chad Pennington—the man who got the ball to Moss—returns after throwing for 3,480 yards and 39 touchdowns in '97. By comparison, Tennessee's Peyton Manning had 36 touchdown passes and Washington State's Ryan Leaf threw for 33.

There also is the possibility of the return of Toledo's Wasean Tait—the MAC's 1995 Player of the Year after rushing for 1,905 yards—from a knee injury that has sidelined him the past two seasons. Even with Moss gone, the MAC will roll on.

## East Division

### 1. MARSHALL Thundering Herd

**Coach:** Bob Pruett, 2nd year, 10-3

**'97 Record:** 10-3 (7-1 conf.)

**Stadium/Location:** Marshall University Stadium (30,000)/Huntington, W. Va.

**Key Players Lost:** Randy Moss, WR (1st-team All-MAC); John Wade, OL; Larry McCloud, LB; B.J. Cohen, DE

**Returning Starters:** 14 (7 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Akron; Sept. 12 TROY STATE; Sept. 19 @ South Carolina; Sept. 26 @ Eastern Michigan; Oct. 3 MIAMI (OHIO); Oct. 10 @ Ohio; Oct. 17 KENT; Oct. 24 BALL STATE; Oct. 31 @ Bowling Green; Nov. 7 CENTRAL MICHIGAN; Nov. 21 WOFFORD

**Overview:** Chad Pennington's numbers were so impressive—his 39 TD passes were fifth highest in NCAA history and most ever by a sophomore—that Marshall is marketing him as its second-straight Heisman Trophy candidate. The Thundering Herd also return 1,000-yard rusher Doug Chapman and wide-out LaVorn Colclough, whose impressive numbers (74 receptions, 946 yards, nine TDs) were overshadowed by Moss' (96, 1,820, 26).

Defensively, Marshall's secondary could be suspect with Rogers Beckett the only returning starter. But the secondary does have one advantage over the MAC—it doesn't have to go against Pennington and Co. on Saturdays.

### 2. MIAMI (OHIO) Redhawks

**Coach:** Randy Walker, 9th year, 49-34-5

**'97 Record:** 8-3 (6-2)

**Stadium/Location:** Yager Stadium (30,012)/

Oxford, Ohio

**Key Players Lost:** Mike Bird, OL (1st-team All-MAC); Damian Vaughn, TE (1st-team All-MAC); Jamie Taylor, CB (1st-team All-MAC); Chad Brightman, DE (1st-team All-MAC); Jeff Cheeks, CB; Sam Ricketts, QB

**Returning Starters:** 13 (5 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ North Carolina; Sept. 12 @ Army; Sept. 26 TOLEDO; Oct. 3 @ Marshall; Oct. 10 BOWLING GREEN; Oct. 17 @ Ball State; Oct. 24 @ Cincinnati; Oct. 31 OHIO; Nov. 7 @ Northern Illinois; Nov. 14 KENT; Nov. 21 @ Akron

**Overview:** If Travis Prentice comes close to matching his numbers from a year ago (1,549 yards, 25 TDs), Miami could make a run at a title. All-MAC wide receiver Jay Hall returns, but the Redhawks begin the season with an unproven quarterback and a brand new offensive line. Linebacker JoJuan Armour, the 1997 MAC Defensive Player of the Year, spearheads a unit that returns its top four tacklers. Senior placekicker John Scott set a MAC record with 53 consecutive PATs in one season.

### 3. OHIO Bobcats

**Coach:** Jim Grobe, 4th year, 16-17-1

**'97 Record:** 8-3 (6-2)

**Stadium/Location:** Peden Stadium (20,000)/Athens, Ohio

**Key Players Lost:** Tevell Jones, DB (1st-team All-MAC); Andre Jackson, LB (2nd-team All-MAC); Chris Evans, OL

**Returning Starters:** 17 (8 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 3 @ North Carolina State; Sept. 12 @ Wisconsin; Sept. 19 EAST CAROLINA; Sept. 26 @ Western Michigan; Oct. 3 @ Bowling

## ALL-MID-AMERICAN TEAM

### OFFENSE

Pos	Player	College	Ht/Wt	Yr
QB	Chad Pennington	Marshall	6-3/208	Jr.
RB	Travis Prentice	Miami (Ohio)	6-2/226	Jr.
RB	Silas Massey	C. Michigan	5-8/180	Sr.
WR	LaVorn Colclough	Marshall	6-3/209	Sr.
WR	Eugene Baker	Kent	6-2/161	Jr.
TE	Mike Bilik	Toledo	6-4/233	Jr.
OL	Kevin Kuntz	Akron	6-4/277	Sr.
OL	Colin Westrich	Toledo	6-6/295	Sr.
OL	L.J. Shelton	E. Michigan	6-6/324	Sr.
OL	Mike Solominsky	Ohio	6-2/280	Sr.
OL	Jamie Rodgers	Marshall	6-6/326	Sr.

### DEFENSE

DL	Damon Hummel	Ball State	6-5/266	Sr.
DL	Rogers Beckett	Marshall	6-3/263	Jr.
DL	Dan Falcon	W. Michigan	6-2/250	Sr.
DL	Brad Hartman	Kent	6-4/270	Jr.
LB	JoJuan Armour	Miami (Ohio)	6-1/221	Sr.
LB	Tom Carder	Ohio	6-1/210	Sr.
LB	Joe O'Neill	Bowling Green	6-2/225	Jr.
DB	William Reed	W. Michigan	5-10/170	Jr.
DB	Andre McCray	Akron	5-10/185	Sr.
DB	Paris Johnson	Miami (Ohio)	6-2/205	Sr.
DB	Dennis Fitzgerald	Ohio	5-10/200	Sr.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	John Scott	Miami (Ohio)	6-2/205	Sr.
P	Mike Hayes	Akron	6-3/190	Sr.
RS	Deon Mitchell	N. Illinois	5-10/170	Sr.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Offensive Player of the Year:** Chad Pennington, Marshall

**Defensive Player of the Year:** JoJuan Armour, Miami (Ohio)

**Newcomer:**

Dashaun Richard, Western Michigan

## PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

### East Division

1. Marshall
2. Miami (Ohio)
3. Ohio
4. Kent
5. Akron
6. Bowling Green

### West Division

1. Toledo
2. Western Michigan
3. Ball State
4. Central Michigan
5. Eastern Michigan
6. Northern Illinois

Green; Oct. 10 MARSHALL; Oct. 17 AKRON; Oct. 31 @ Miami (Ohio); Nov. 7 EASTERN MICHIGAN; Nov. 14 NORTHERN ILLINOIS; Nov. 21 @ Kent

**Overview:** The Bobcats ran up some impressive numbers on the ground in 1997, rushing for a school-record 3,321 yards (fourth best in the nation). Ohio remained in the thick of the championship hunt until a 27-0 loss to Marshall in its final game of the season. Quarterback Kareem Wilson—who threw for 369 yards and three touch-



downs and ran for 834 and 12 scores—returns to run the offense, and fullback Steve Hoofkin is looking to add to his 2,657 career yards behind an experienced offensive line.

Linebacker Tom Carder and free safety Dennis Fitzgerald spearhead a defensive unit that was the MAC's toughest to score against. The big question marks are a tough early season road schedule and the Bobcats' ability to play from behind without a passing game.

#### 4. KENT Golden Flashes

**Coach:** Dean Pees, 1st year

**'97 Record:** 3-8 (3-5)

**Stadium/Location:** Dix Stadium (30,520)/Kent, Ohio

**Key Players Lost:** Bob Hallen, C (1st-team All-MAC); Steve Zahursky, OT (1st-team All-MAC); Astron Whatley, TB (1st-team All-MAC); Joe Miller, FB; Justin Sanford, LB; Roger Terry, LB; Joe Romano, PK; Matt Groff, P

**Returning Starters:** 13 (6 off., 7 def.)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Georgia; Sept. 12 YOUNGSTOWN STATE; Sept. 19 @ Navy; Sept. 26 @ Central Michigan; Oct. 3 EASTERN MICHIGAN; Oct. 10 AKRON; Oct. 17 @ Marshall; Oct. 24 @ Bowling Green; Oct. 31 WESTERN MICHIGAN; Nov. 14 @ Miami (Ohio); Nov. 21 OHIO

**Overview:** First-year Kent coach Dean Pees has some offensive weapons to work with as he takes over a program looking for its first winning season in the 1990s. Eugene Baker, who enters the season with the MAC record for career receiving yards (2,828) and touchdown receptions (31), is perhaps Kent's best player since Jack Lambert. Junior quarterback Jose Davis—who set school records for completions (194) and yardage (2,707) in 1997—is back to attack the airwaves. Charles Chatman solidified his spot as the team's No. 1 tailback after a 257-yard rushing effort against Central Michigan in 1997.

Brad Hartman is a force on the defensive line, while Wayne Shaw gives the Flashes 4.47 speed in the defensive backfield. An unfavorable schedule with Georgia, Navy and divisional powers Marshall and Miami (Ohio) on the road could be Kent's worst enemy.

#### 5. AKRON Zips

**Coach:** Lee Owens, 4th year, 8-25

**'97 Record:** 2-9 (2-6)

**Stadium/Location:** Rubber Bowl (35,202)/Akron, Ohio

**Key Players Lost:** Jamie Reader, FB; Nate Boyd, LB; Corey Christian, DL

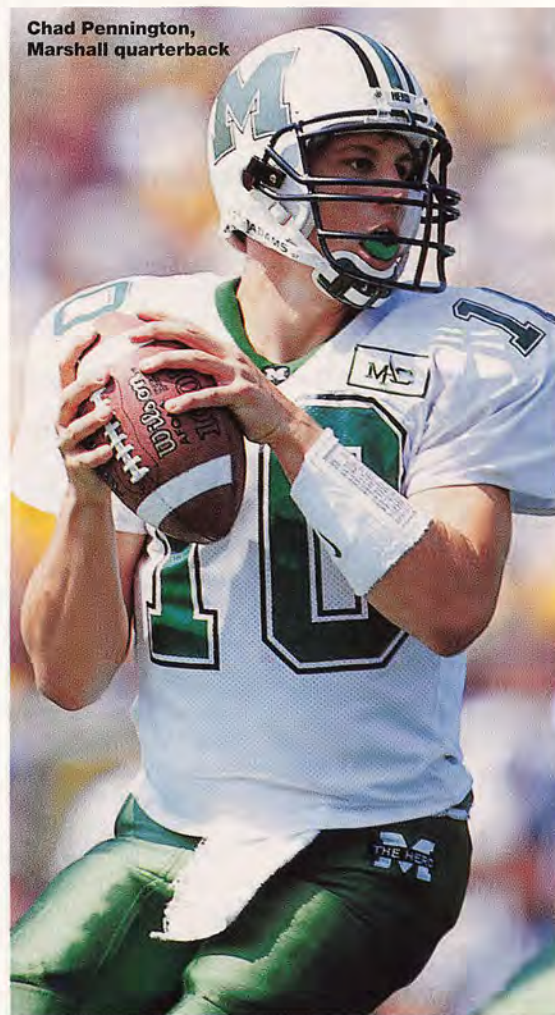
**Returning Starters:** 19 (10 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 MARSHALL; Sept. 12 @

Temple; Sept. 26 BALL STATE; Oct. 3 @ Pittsburgh; Oct. 10 @ Kent; Oct. 24 TOLEDO; Oct. 31 @ Central Michigan; Nov. 7 @ Bowling Green; Nov. 14 EASTERN MICHIGAN; Nov. 21 MIAMI (OHIO)

**Overview:** Akron's experienced nucleus of returning veterans will attempt to get the Zips back on the road to respectability. Led by tailback Greg Lomax, the Zips last year ranked 11th in the nation in rushing offense at 221 yards per game. Senior guard Kevin Kuntz anchors an offensive line that returns completely intact.

Strong safety Andre McCray is the leader of a solid secondary. The Zips, however, have some holes to fill on the defensive front.



Chad Pennington, Marshall quarterback

#### 6. BOWLING GREEN Falcons

**Coach:** Gary Blackney, 8th year, 48-29-2

**'97 Record:** 3-8 (3-5)

**Stadium/Location:** Doyt L. Perry Stadium (30,599)/Bowling Green, Ohio

**Key Players Lost:** Kevin O'Neill, LB, (1st-team All-MAC); Damron Hamilton, WR (2nd-team All-MAC); John Kuck, C; Chioke Bradley, CB

**Returning Starters:** 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Missouri; Sept. 12 @ Penn State; Sept. 26 CENTRAL FLORIDA; Oct. 3 OHIO; Oct. 10 @ Miami (Ohio); Oct. 17 @ Toledo; Oct. 24 KENT; Oct. 31 MARSHALL; Nov. 7 AKRON; Nov. 14 @ Western Michigan; Nov. 21 @ Northern Illinois

**Overview:** Quarterback Bob Niemet missed all or parts of eight games—the Falcons lost seven of them—and he must remain healthy for Bowling Green to be competitive. The Falcons' offensive line returns intact, but the running game must do better than its woeful average of just 2.3 yards per carry.

Linebacker Joe O'Neill picks up where his brother, Kevin, left off as the heart and soul of the Bowling Green defense. However, coach Gary Blackney and his Falcons know they have work to do in the secondary as more and more MAC teams take to the air. The Falcons ranked 109th out of 112 Division I-A teams against the pass in 1997.

### West Division

#### 1. TOLEDO Rockets

**Coach:** Gary Pinkel, 8th year, 50-26-3

**'97 Record:** 9-3 (7-1 conf.)

**Stadium/Location:** Glass Bowl (26,248)/Toledo, Ohio

**Key Players Lost:** Clarence Love, DB (1st-team All-MAC); Marcus Matthews, LB (1st-team All-MAC); Jason Richards, DT (1st-team All-MAC); Jim Bates, C (2nd-team All-MAC); Rasche' Sumpter, DB

**Returning Starters:** 17 (10 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 TEMPLE; Sept. 12 @ Ohio State; Sept. 19 WESTERN MICHIGAN; Sept. 26 @ Miami (Ohio); Oct. 3 CENTRAL FLORIDA; Oct. 10 BALL STATE; Oct. 17 BOWLING GREEN; Oct. 24 @ Akron; Oct. 31 @ Northern Illinois; Nov. 14 CENTRAL MICHIGAN; Nov. 21 @ Eastern Michigan

**Overview:** With tailback Dwayne Harris (1,278 yards, 10 TDs) running the ball and quarterback Chris Wallace (2,955 yards, 27 TDs) throwing it, the Rockets have the firepower on offense to defend their West Division championship. If Wasean Tait—who rushed for a MAC-record 1,905 yards in 1995—successfully returns from a knee injury



that has sidelined him since the first game of the 1996 season, Toledo coach Gary Pinkel will have a backfield tandem as talented as anywhere in the country. Toledo also returns All-MAC honorees Mike Bilik at tight end, Brock Kreitzburg at split end and Colin Westrich at offensive tackle.

But it's the other side of the ball—where Toledo graduated three first-team All-MAC performers—that holds the key to the Rocket's title defense.

## 2. WESTERN MICHIGAN Broncos

**Coach:** Gary Darnell, 2nd year, 8-3

**'97 Record:** 8-3 (6-2)

**Stadium/Location:** Waldo Stadium (30,200)/Kalamazoo, Mich.

**Key Players Lost:** Ryan Bauer, DL (2nd-team All-MAC); Joe Lewandowski, OL (2nd-team All-MAC); Rick Lucas, LB (2nd-team All-MAC); Steve Roon, LB; Heron O'Neal, DB; Steve Maloney, DB

**Returning Starters:** 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 3 NORTHERN ILLINOIS; Sept. 12 @ Indiana; Sept. 19 @ Toledo; Sept. 26 OHIO; Oct. 3 @ Northeast Louisiana; Oct. 10 @ Vanderbilt; Oct. 17 EASTERN MICHIGAN; Oct. 24 @ Central Michigan; Oct. 31 @ Kent; Nov. 7 @ Ball State; Nov. 14 BOWLING GREEN

**Overview:** Last year, the Broncos were the most improved team in Division I, finishing 8-3 by winning their final six games under first-year coach Gary Darnell. Junior quarterback Tim Lester and sophomore fullback Robert Sanford—two players who have won MAC Freshman of the Year honors—spearhead the offense. Lester threw for 2,160 yards and 17 TDs, while Sanford rushed for 1,033 yards and 11 TDs.

Western's defense led the MAC in sacks but graduated its two leading tacklers and most of its linebacker corps. The defensive line returns virtually intact—headed by seniors Dan Falcon at tackle and Nate Woklow at end—while defensive backs William Reed and junior-college transfer Dashaun Richard will be the linchpins of what should be a solid secondary.

## 3. BALL STATE Cardinals

**Coach:** Bill Lynch, 4th year, 20-14

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (4-4)

**Stadium/Location:** Ball State Stadium (21,581)/Muncie, Ind.

**Key Players Lost:** Howard Simms LB; Jeff Phelps, LB; Troy Ramey, DB; Wilber McDonald, DE; Kenyon Laws, DB; Raphaol Ball, DB; Brent

Locklear, K

**Returning Starters:** 12 (8 off., 3 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ South Carolina; Sept. 12 EASTERN MICHIGAN; Sept. 19 @ Iowa State; Sept. 26 @ Akron; Oct. 3 NORTHERN ILLINOIS; Oct. 10 @ Toledo; Oct. 17 MIAMI (OHIO); Oct. 24 @ Marshall; Nov. 7 WESTERN MICHIGAN; Nov. 14 @ Central Florida; Nov. 21 @ Central Michigan

**Overview:** The addition of three players who sat out the 1997 season with various injuries essentially gives Ball State an entire offense of returning starters. Tailback LeAndre Moore has rushed for more than 2,000 yards in his career. Quarterback Jake Josetti returns behind an experienced offensive line and has sure-handed wideout Adrian Reese at his disposal.

Ball State is traditionally strong on defense, but the graduation of six of its seven leading tacklers leaves coach Bill Lynch with some big holes to fill.

## 4. CENTRAL MICHIGAN Chippewas

**Coach:** Dick Flynn, 5th year, 20-25

**'97 Record:** 2-9 (1-7)

**Stadium/Location:** Kelly/Shorts Stadium (20,086)/Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

**Key Players Lost:** Tim Crowley, QB; Casey Wilson, PK

**Returning Starters:** 19 (8 off., 10 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Iowa; Sept. 12 WESTERN ILLINOIS; Sept. 26 KENT STATE; Oct. 3 @ Michigan State; Oct. 10 @ Eastern Michigan; Oct. 17 @ Northern Illinois; Oct. 24 WESTERN MICHIGAN; Oct. 31 AKRON; Nov. 17 @ Marshall; Nov. 14 @ Toledo; Nov. 21 BALL STATE

**Overview:** Wideouts Reggie Allen and Bryan Schorman—who combined for 106 receptions in 1997—are as good as any receiving tandem in the MAC, and former All-MAC tailback Silas Massey returns from a knee injury that sidelined him for the 1997 season. Offense is no problem for CMU, which averaged 399.8 yards per game in '97, but the Chippewas must defend the pass better in order to rebound from their worst record in school history. Last year, CMU's defense set several MAC records for futility, allowing 480.9 yards and 43.6 points per game, plus 40 touchdown passes.

## 5. EASTERN MICHIGAN Eagles

**Coach:** Rick Rasnick, 4th year, 13-20

**'97 Record:** 4-7 (3-5)

**Stadium/Location:** Rynearson Stadium (30,200)/Ypsilanti, Mich.

**Key Players Lost:** Lionel Dalton, DL (1st team All-MAC); Charlie Batch, QB; Terry Reed, DB

**Returning Starters:** 8 (4 off., 3 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 6 @ Missouri; Sept. 13 @ Toledo; Sept. 20 KENT; Sept. 27 @ Central Michigan; Oct. 4 OHIO; Oct. 11 BALL STATE; Oct. 18 AKRON; Oct. 25 @ Marshall; Nov. 1 WESTERN MICHIGAN; Nov. 8 @ Northern Illinois; Nov. 15 @ Central Florida

**Overview:** Eastern Michigan must replace virtually every position in its offensive backfield, with the biggest hole being vacated by quarterback Charlie Batch (3,280 yards and 23 TDs passing in '97), who was the Detroit Lions' second-round pick in the 1998 NFL draft. Ben Washington's 35 rushing yards is the most of any returning Eagles running back. Fortunately for the Eagles, they can build around All-MAC offensive tackle L.J. Shelton and quarterback Walt Church, who earned MAC Freshman of the Year honors in 1996 after filling in when Batch was sidelined with an injury.

The Eagles face an equally daunting task on defense as linebacker Clifton Robinson and free safety Phil Franklin (ninth and 10th on the team in tackles) are the leading returning tacklers.

## 6. NORTHERN ILLINOIS Huskies

**Coach:** Joe Novak, 3rd year, 1-21

**'97 Record:** 0-11 (0-8)

**Stadium/Location:** Huskie Stadium (31,000)/DeKalb, Ill.

**Key Players Lost:** Jamie MacDonald, OL; Kent Booth, OL; Terrell Alexander, DL; Steve Smith, LB

**Returning Starters:** 19 (8 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 3 @ Western Michigan; Sept. 12 @ Kansas State; Sept. 19 EASTERN ILLINOIS; Oct. 3 @ Ball State; Oct. 10 @ Central Florida; Oct. 17 CENTRAL MICHIGAN; Oct. 24 @ Eastern Michigan; Oct. 31 TOLEDO; Nov. 7 MIAMI (OHIO); Nov. 14 @ Ohio; Nov. 21 BOWLING GREEN

**Overview:** Northern Illinois currently holds the nation's longest major college losing streak with 18 straight defeats. Trying to put a stop to the skid is an offensive unit that returns 100 percent of the rushing and passing yardage from 1997. Unfortunately for Northern Illinois, that offense—led by tailback Ivory Bryant and split end/return specialist Deon Mitchell—ranked 110th nationally.

Defensively, Patrick Stephen is a two-time Academic All-America selection. If the rest of the defense can figure out how to keep opponents from scoring an average of 34.7 points and 427.6 yards per game, the Huskies may put that losing streak behind them.



## PREDICTED STANDINGS

1. Arizona State
2. UCLA
3. Washington
4. Stanford
5. Arizona
6. Southern Cal
7. Oregon
8. Washington State
9. California
10. Oregon State

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

### Offensive

#### Player of the Year

Cade McNown, UCLA

### Defensive

#### Player of the Year

Gary Holmes, Washington St.

### Newcomer

DeShaun Foster, UCLA

## GAMES TO WATCH

### ► Sept. 5

Washington @ Arizona St.

### ► Nov. 14

UCLA @ Washington

### ► Nov. 21

USC @ UCLA

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Cade McNown, UCLA



# Pac-10

## All-Pac-10 Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: Cade McNown	6-1/215	Sr.	UCLA
RB: J.R. Redmond	6-0/192	Jr.	Arizona St.
RB: Trung Canidate	5-11/188	Jr.	Arizona
WR: Troy Walters	5-8/176	Sr.	Stanford
WR: R. Jay Soward	5-11/180	Jr.	USC
TE: Mike Grieb	6-4/248	Sr.	UCLA
OL: Grey Ruegamer	6-5/296	Sr.	Arizona St.
OL: John Welbourn	6-5/290	Sr.	California
OL: Tony Coats	6-7/300	Sr.	Washington
OL: Kris Farris	6-9/310	Jr.	UCLA
OL: Travis Claridge	6-6/300	Jr.	USC
PK: Chris Sailer	5-11/200	Sr.	UCLA

### [DEFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL: Gary Holmes	6-8/312	Sr.	Washington St.
DL: I. Breckterfield	5-11/243	Sr.	Oregon State
DL: Jabari Issa	6-6/300	Jr.	Washington
DL: Albrey Battle	6-3/289	Sr.	Arizona State
LB: Chris Claiborne	6-3/250	Jr.	USC
LB: Matt Beck	6-4/230	Jr.	California
LB: Peter Sirmon	6-2/246	Jr.	Oregon
DB: D. McCutcheon	5-11/190	Sr.	USC
DB: Chris McAlister	6-1/205	Sr.	Arizona
DB: Larry Atkins	6-4/218	Sr.	UCLA
DB: M. Freedman	5-10/175	Sr.	Arizona St.
P: Kevin Miller	6-0/200	Sr.	Stanford

► Stanford's Chad Hutchinson is one of the Pac-10's most exciting football talents ... if he decides to play football.



# ARIZONA Facts

**Coach:** Dick Tomey, 12th year, 72-51-4; 135-97-7 overall  
**'97 Record:** 7-5 (4-4 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Arizona Stadium, Tucson, Ariz. (57,803; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 14 (7 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Joe Salave'a, DT (1st-team All-Pac-10); Jose Portilla, OT (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Chester Burnett, LB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Ortege Jenkins, So., 115-235-1,669 yards, 19 TDs, 5 INTs  
**Rushing:** Trung Canidate, Jr., 138 carries, 804 yards, 4 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Dennis Northcutt, Jr., 58, 9 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Northcutt, 767  
**Tackles:** Marcus Bell, Jr., 80  
**Sacks:** Daniel Greer, Sr., 4.5  
**Punting:** Ryan Springston, Sr., 39.4 avg.  
**Kicking:** Mark McDonald, Jr., 5-8 FGs (long 43); 31-31 PATs  
**Points:** Northcutt, 60

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/4 @ Hawaii  
 9/12 @ Stanford  
 9/19 IOWA  
 9/24 @ San Diego St.  
 10/3 @ Washington  
 10/10 UCLA  
 10/17 @ Oregon St.  
 10/24 NE LOUISIANA  
 10/31 OREGON  
 11/7 WASHINGTON ST.  
 11/14 @ California  
 11/27 ARIZONA ST.

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Oregon; L, 16-9  
 ALA.-BIR.; W, 24-10  
 @ Ohio State; L, 28-20  
 @ UCLA; L, 40-27  
 SAN DIEGO ST.; W, 31-28  
 STANFORD; W, 28-22  
 WASHINGTON; L, 58-28  
 @ Washington St.; L, 35-34  
 OREGON ST.; W, 27-7  
 CALIFORNIA; W, 41-38  
 @ Arizona St.; W, 28-16  
 vs. New Mexico; W, 20-14\*

\*Insight.com Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: O. Jenkins (So., 6-2, 214)\* K. Smith (Jr., 5-11, 202)  
 RB: T. Canidate (Jr., 5-11, 188)\* L. Callen (So., 5-9, 185)  
 RB: K. Eafon (Sr., 5-11, 218)\* W. Blocker (So., 5-11, 210)  
 WR: D. Northcutt (Jr., 5-11, 170)\* B. Nash (So., 6-2, 195)  
 WR: J. McDaniel (Sr., 6-1, 194) B. Brennan (Jr., 5-11, 167)  
 TE: M. Lucky (Sr., 6-6, 270)\* B. Manumala (So., 6-2, 280)  
 LT: E. Mulitalo (Sr., 6-4, 346)\* E. Usu (Jr., 6-4, 302)  
 LG: S. Grace (Fr., 6-2, 275) M. McFadden (So., 6-4, 290)  
 C: B. Wiggins (So., 6-3, 278) S. Grace (Fr., 6-2, 275)  
 RG: Y. Scott (Jr., 6-3, 320)\* B. Kula (Fr., 6-2, 309)  
 RT: M. Savea (Jr., 6-3, 280) M. Freitas (So., 6-7, 260)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Tafoya (So., 6-4, 265)\* A. Luna (Fr., 6-1, 240)  
 DT: D. Greer (Sr., 6-2, 264)\* D. Tillman (Jr., 6-2, 265)  
 DT: I. Haroon (So., 6-1, 250) A. Thomas (Jr., 6-3, 265)  
 DE: E. Wnek (Fr., 6-3, 255) A. Burrows (Jr., 6-4, 255)  
 LB: D. Polk (Jr., 6-2, 220)\* R. Bonillas (Sr., 6-2, 233)  
 LB: M. Bell (Jr., 6-2, 230)\* M. Wilson (Fr., 6-0, 190)  
 LB: S. Glover (Jr., 6-0, 233) S. Sprout (Jr., 5-11, 200)  
 CB: K. Hunter (Jr., 5-9, 160) M. Golden (Fr., 5-11, 185)  
 CB: C. McAlister (Sr., 6-1, 205)\* L. Gayles (Jr., 5-9, 170)  
 SS: L. Rich (Sr., 5-10, 192) G. Payne (Jr., 6-0, 180)  
 FS: R. Jones (Jr., 5-10, 185) A.J. Brown (Fr., 6-0, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: M. McDonald (Jr., 6-2, 187)\* M. Johnson (Jr., 6-0, 210)  
 P: R. Springston (Sr., 5-11, 211)\* C. Palic (So., 6-3, 180)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

Besides setting a new single-season Pac-10 freshman record for touchdown passes, Ortege Jenkins' total of 19 (achieved in just seven games) placed him second on the all-time Arizona list to Marc Reed, who had 20 in 1966.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.arizcats.com



# Arizona



ORTEGE JENKINS-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Duelling quarterbacks must not disrupt the offense.
- The defense must maintain the Desert Storm tradition of domination.
- The running backs need to stay healthy.

Arizona enters the 1998 campaign with a four-game winning streak, a bowl victory and a quarterback controversy. Sophomore Ortege Jenkins started seven games after regular starter Keith Smith went down with an injury in game four. Jenkins posted a 5-2 record in that role and threw for 1,669 yards and a Pac-10 freshman-record 19 TDs (and only 5 INTs). In 1996, Smith threw for 1,450 yards and 11 TDs, and ran for 546 yards and eight more scores.

"They each can be a special player and are the same type of quarterback—athletic, fast and with a great throwing arm," said coach Dick Tomey, who gave each a similar number of snaps during spring drills. "We'll go into fall camp with a 1-2 punch and let the games decide who plays the most."

## OFFENSE

Whoever the QB may be, he will have talent to work with at the skill positions. "We have a lot of explosiveness on this team and we definitely have guys on offense who can make plays," Tomey said. Trung Canidate averaged 100.5 yards rushing per game, but missed three due to injury. He was still recovering this past spring from a stress fracture, and if he is unable to go in the fall, Leon Callen, who runs a 4.4 40, will start. Kelvin Eafon will start at fullback and will be used as the tailback in short-yardage and goal-line situations.

The Wildcats have a solid receiving corps that features Dennis Northcutt, Jenkins' favorite target. Northcutt caught 58 passes for nine touchdowns and also had a rushing score. Jeremy McDaniel, who had 31 receptions and three touchdowns in 1996 (including a Pac-10 game record performance with 14 catches for 283 yards), returns after sitting out the '97 season with a hamstring injury. Brad Brennan (32 receptions, six touch-

downs) adds depth, and tight end Mike Lucky brings good size and experience.

Arizona's 402 yards per game in '97—the most the offense has averaged since joining the Pac-10—started with the line, which returns oversized Edwin Mulitalo at left tackle and Yusuf Scott at right guard. Bruce Wiggins is expected to move in at center. The rest, Tomey says, "is going to have to wait until the fall because we have some freshmen coming in who could be ready to play."

## DEFENSE

After a short hiatus, the defense rebounded in 1997 to resemble the famed "Desert Swarm" units of the early-to-mid '90s and ended up on top of the Pac-10 in total defense. Five starters return from that group. Tackle Daniel Greer, who recorded 13 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks, will anchor the line. Joe Tafoya at end and tackles Idris Haroon and Anthony Thomas (all sophomores) have started several games and should be solid.

At linebacker, Arizona will have to replace Chester Burnett, the leading tackler over the past three years. However, the group is talented and deep with returning starters Marcus Bell and DaShon Polk. The pair combined for 19 tackles for loss and seven sacks.

The secondary lost three starters. Fortunately, the lone returnee is cornerback Chris McAlister, a two-time All-Pac-10 performer who has led the team in interceptions the past two years. Kelvin Hunter is expected to recover from a serious ankle injury suffered at the end of '97 and should line up opposite McAlister. LaChaux Rich will start at strong safety and Rafell Jones should get the nod at free safety, although redshirt freshman A.J. Brown will give him a run for the starting job.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Mark McDonald returns after a successful '97 that included two game-winning field goals, and Ryan Springston is back to handle the punting chores. The dangerous duo of McAlister (who has a 100-yard return on his resume) and Northcutt will return kickoffs, and Northcutt will also return punts.

## RECRUITING

Tomey landed the best class of his tenure. The jewel of the group is running back Leo Mills of Humble, Texas, who was ranked 34th in the nation by SuperPrep. JUCO transfers Terrell Jurineack and Mike Robinson could see action on the defensive line right away.

By Jim Jacobson





# Arizona State



MITCHELL FREEDMAN-DB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Put up points in the early games while the defense meshes.
- Find some adequate replacements along the defensive line.
- Solidify the place-kicking by the start of the season.

Arizona State avoided a letdown last year after their run at the national championship in 1996 fell 90 seconds short. Many of the key players from '96 moved on, but coach Bruce Snyder and his troops responded with a 9-3 season, including a solid beating of Iowa in the Sun Bowl.

As he prepares for '98 after winning 20 games the past two seasons, Snyder sounds optimistic. "I've never had this many offensive weapons returning," he said. Arizona State returns eight starters from a unit that averaged 34.3 points over its last six Pac-10 games.

Arizona State faces a major test when Washington comes to town to open the season. If the Wildcats prevail, they could have the inside track to the Pac-10 title, especially because UCLA is not on their schedule in '98.

## OFFENSE

Quarterback Ryan Kealy had some huge shoes to fill in replacing ASU legend Jake Plummer. He responded with an impressive debut season, completing 162 of 297 passes for 2,137 yards and 15 TDs. "I think [our season] started coming together when Ryan became comfortable," Snyder said.

Kealy tore his ACL in the season finale but has recovered ahead of schedule and was participating in almost all spring drills by April. He's expected to take the first snap against Washington.

Also back is tailback J.R. Redmond, the conference's leading returning rusher. Redmond is a Heisman hopeful who also returns kicks and punts and is a dangerous receiver. He will be joined in the backfield by fullback Jeff Paulk, a punishing blocker who can also carry the ball.

The Wildcats are deep at wide receiver. Leading the pack is senior Lenzie Jackson, whose 53 receptions led Arizona State last

year. Seniors Ricky Boyer, who has great speed, and Kenny Mitchell will likely see the bulk of the action with Jackson. Kendrick Bates will start again at tight end, where his blocking ability was a huge asset.

The line, which helped ASU lead the Pac-10 in rushing in 1997, looks to be in good shape. Although one All-Pac-10 lineman, Kyle Murphy, is gone, another, center Grey Ruegamer, returns to anchor the crew.

## DEFENSE

Just four starters return from the Pac-10's No. 3 defense, leaving a number of questions to be answered. "We really don't

know what to expect this year because there are some pieces that are not yet in place," said defensive coordinator Phil Snow. The biggest missing piece is linebacker Pat Tillman, the team's heart and soul in '97.

Senior rush tackle Albrely Battle is the lone returnee on the line. Ryan Reilly starts at the other rush tackle after seeing action in 10 games last season. Quincy Yancy and Derrick Ford start at rush ends.

With a couple of exceptions, the linebackers will be young. Sophomore Stephen Trejo leads the group, and redshirt freshman Eric Fields and sophomore Adam Archuleta emerged in the spring as likely starters. Seniors Joe Cesta and Larry Johnson will push the youngsters and could even overtake them during fall practice.

The secondary should be strong and will be led by Mitchell "Fright Night" Freedman, probably the most feared hitter in the conference. Christon Rance starts at strong safety, while Courtney Jackson and J'Juan Cherry cover the corners. Jackson was an honorable mention All-Pac-10.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Both kicker Robert Nycz and punter Marcus Williams have departed. Stephen Baker, a redshirt freshman, will likely handle the punting. He's also a candidate for the placekicking position, as is Mike Gauthier.

## RECRUITING

This is one of the better groups to have come to Tempe and there are a number of players who could see time right away. Two JUCO transfers, Erik Flowers and Junior Ioane, will be in the mix on the defensive line. Tight end Todd Heap and running back Kyran Jones were USA Today honorable mention All-Americans. The Wildcats won the recruiting battle against Nebraska for Jones as well as for running back J.R. Perouls.

By Jim Jacobson

## ARIZONA ST. Facts

**Coach:** Bruce Snyder, 7th year, 41-27; 109-88-5 overall  
**'97 Record:** 9-3 (6-2 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz. (73,379; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 12 (8 off., 4 def.)  
**Key Players Lost:** Pat Tillman, LB (Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year); Kyle Murphy, LG (1st-team All-Pac-10); Jeremy Staat, DT (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Damien Richardson, SS (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Michael Martin, TB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Ryan Kealy, So., 162-297-2, 137 yards, 15 TDs, 7 INTs  
**Rushing:** J.R. Redmond, Jr., 142 carries, 865 yards, 7 TDs  
**Receiving (catches):** Lenzie Jackson, Sr., 53, 5 TDs  
**Receiving (yards):** Jackson, 733  
**Tackles:** Mitchell Freedman, Sr., 58  
**Sacks:** Albrely Battle, Sr., Derrick Ford, Sr., 3  
**Interceptions:** Freedman, 4  
**Punting:** None  
**Kicking:** None  
**Scoring:** Redmond, 48

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 WASHINGTON  
 9/12 @ BYU  
 9/19 NORTH TEXAS  
 9/26 OREGON ST.  
 10/3 @ USC  
 10/10 NOTRE DAME  
 10/22 STANFORD  
 10/31 @ Washington St.  
 11/7 CALIFORNIA  
 11/14 @ Oregon  
 11/27 @ Arizona

## 1997 RESULTS

NEW MEXICO ST.; W, 41-10  
 @ Miami (Fla.); W, 23-12  
 BYU; L, 13-10  
 @ Oregon St.; W, 13-10  
 @ Washington; L, 26-14  
 USC; W, 35-7  
 @ Stanford; W, 31-14  
 WASHINGTON ST.; W, 44-31  
 @ California; W, 28-21  
 OREGON; W, 52-31  
 ARIZONA; L, 28-16  
 vs. Iowa; W, 17-7  
 \*Sun Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: R. Kealy (So., 6-2, 190)\* S. Campbell (Sr., 6-8, 243)  
 RB: J.R. Redmond (Jr., 6-0, 192) M. Farlow (Sr., 5-10, 203)  
 FB: J. Paulk (Sr., 6-1, 250)\* J. Each (Fr., 6-1, 240)  
 WR: L. Jackson (Sr., 6-0, 189)\* C. Spann (Sr., 6-0, 187)  
 WR: K. Mitchell (Sr., 6-3, 211)\* R. Boyer (Sr., 5-8, 155)  
 TE: K. Bates (Jr., 6-5, 250)\* M. Cercione (Sr., 6-5, 240)  
 LT: M. Smith (So., 6-6, 311)\* K. Wes'haus (Jr., 6-5, 295)  
 LG: S. Peters (Fr., 6-3, 321) C. Sweasy (So., 6-4, 279)  
 C: G. Ruegamer (Sr., 6-5, 296)\* R. Leaphart (Sr., 6-3, 295)  
 RG: V. Levya (So., 6-4, 289)\* K. Ramsay (So., 6-3, 285)  
 RT: T. Davis (Sr., 6-5, 285) T. Schmidt (Jr., 6-6, 290)

### DEFENSE

DE: Q. Yancy (So., 6-8, 242) J. Ioane (Jr., 6-5, 285)  
 DT: A. Battle (Sr., 6-3, 289)\* C. Britton (Jr., 6-1, 251)  
 DT: R. Reilly (Jr., 6-2, 287) J. Samilton (Jr., 6-2, 290)  
 DE: D. Ford (Sr., 6-1, 234) L. Jones (Fr., 6-4, 267)  
 LB: A. Archuleta (So., 6-0, 202) L. Johnson (Sr., 6-1, 228)  
 LB: S. Trejo (So., 6-3, 234)\* J. Cesta (Sr., 6-1, 224)  
 LB: E. Fields (Fr., 6-3, 225) T. Smith (Jr., 6-1, 247)  
 CB: J. Cherry (Jr., 6-0, 204) K. Clark (Jr., 5-8, 179)  
 CB: C. Jackson (Jr., 6-0, 180)\* C. Hysaw (Fr., 5-10, 193)  
 SS: C. Rance (So., 6-2, 198) K. Grayes (Fr., 6-0, 185)  
 FS: M. Freedman (Sr., 6-0, 207)\* P. Brown (Jr., 6-0, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

P: S. Baker (Fr., 5-11, 185) M. Gauthier (So., 5-9, 176)  
 K: S. Baker (Fr., 5-11, 185) M. Gauthier (So., 5-9, 176)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Over the last 29 games, only Nebraska, Tennessee, Florida and Florida State have won more games than the Sun Devils (24).

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.thesundevils.com



## CALIFORNIA Facts

**Coach:** Tom Holmoe, 2nd year, 3-8

**'97 Record:** 3-8 (1-7 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** California Memorial Stadium, Berkeley, Calif. (74,909; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (6 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Bobby Shaw, WR (1st-team All-Pac-10); Brandon Whiting, DT (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Jeremy Newberry, C (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Tarik Smith, TB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Justin Vedder, Sr., 221-390-2,718 yards, 20 TDs, 14 INTs

**Rushing:** Marcus Fields, So., 95 carries, 419 yards, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Dameane Douglas, Sr., 53

**Receiving (Yards):** Douglas, 610

**Tackles:** Marquis Smith, Sr., 72

**Sacks:** Mawuko Tugbenyoh, Jr., 5

**Interceptions:** Derrick Gardner, Sr., 2

**Punting:** Nick Harris, So., 42.2 avg.

**Kicking:** Ignacio Brache, Jr., 6-10 FGs (long 45), 18-24 PATs

**Scoring:** Brache, 36 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 HOUSTON  
9/12 NEBRASKA  
9/19 @ Oklahoma  
9/26 WASHINGTON ST.  
10/10 @ USC  
10/17 @ Washington  
10/24 UCLA  
10/31 @ Oregon St.  
11/7 @ Arizona St.  
11/14 ARIZONA  
11/21 STANFORD

### 1997 RESULTS

@ Houston; W, 35-3  
OKLAHOMA; W, 40-36  
USC; L, 27-17  
@ Louisiana Tech; L, 41-34  
WASHINGTON; L, 30-3  
@ Washington St.; L, 63-37  
UCLA; L, 35-17  
OREGON STATE; W, 33-14  
ARIZONA ST.; L, 28-21  
@ Arizona; L, 41-38  
@ Stanford; L, 21-20

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: J. Vedder (Sr., 6-2, 200)\* S. Clemons (Fr., 6-2, 210)  
TB: M. Fields (So., 6-2, 200) M. Oliver (So., 5-11, 200)  
FB: J. White (So., 5-11, 240)\* M. Freeman (Sr., 6-1, 240)  
WR: D. Douglas (Sr., 6-1, 195)\* J. Young (Jr., 6-2, 180)  
WR: B. Pierre (Sr., 6-1, 195) P. Pipersburg (So., 5-10, 180)  
TE: B. Surgener (So., 6-4, 220)\* C. Smith (Fr., 6-4, 250)  
LT: J. Welbourn (Sr., 6-5, 300)\* J. Martin (Jr., 6-4, 295)  
LG: J. Romero (Jr., 6-3, 315) T. McCallister (Sr., 6-3, 270)  
C: C. Brown (Sr., 6-4, 305) R. Diehl (So., 6-4, 280)  
RG: Y. Williams (Sr., 6-6, 300)\* K. Swillis (Sr., 6-5, 315)  
RT: K. Doherty (Jr., 6-5, 310) B. Ludwig (Fr., 6-4, 275)

#### DEFENSE

DE: J. McLaughlin (Sr., 6-4, 240) M. Tugbenyoh (Jr., 6-1, 235)\*  
NT: J. Waasdorp (So., 6-2, 250) K. Jackson (Jr., 6-3, 280)  
DT: J. DeLoach (Jr., 6-4, 305)\* J. Gibson (Sr., 6-4, 265)  
DE: A. Carter (So., 6-4, 245)\* J. Parker (Jr., 6-5, 300)  
LB: S. Sanyika (Jr., 6-3, 230)\* J. Trowbridge (Sr., 6-5, 225)  
LB: M. Beck (Jr., 6-4, 230)\* F. Fa'avae (Jr., 5-10, 210)  
LB: A. Dorsey (Sr., 6-2, 235) J. Flagg (Sr., 6-1, 235)  
CB: D. Gardner (Sr., 6-0, 185)\* D. O'Neal (Jr., 5-11, 190)  
CB: C. Iwuoma (So., 5-9, 175)\* H. Pearson (So., 5-11, 170)  
SS: P. Destefano (Jr., 6-2, 215)\* D. Marzett (Jr., 6-0, 200)  
FS: M. Smith (Sr., 6-3, 220)\* D. Smith (Jr., 6-2, 210)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

P: Nick Harris (So., 6-3, 205)\* I. Brache (Jr., 6-0, 210)  
K: I. Brache (Jr., 6-0, 210)\* T. Wolleck (Sr., 6-0, 220)

\* Denotes returning starter

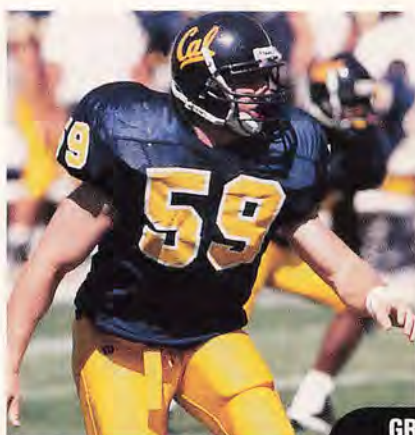
### MILESTONE

• California has lost to Washington 15 times in a row.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.calbears.com

# Cal California



MATT BECK-LB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The defense must do a better job of preventing the big play.
- The offensive line, with three new starters, must jell early.
- A second receiver must emerge to allow Douglas to flourish.

In its pursuit of stability since the resignation of head coach Steve Mariucci in January of '97, Cal seemingly has taken two steps forward and one step back. Tom Holmoe, in his second year at the helm, welcomes three more new coaches to a staff whose most tenured member is entering his third season.

Both the coaching staff and the players treated last year as a learning experience. "We knew going into last season that our youth and inexperience could be problems, and that proved to be the case," said Holmoe, who owns three Super Bowl rings from his time as a safety with the San Francisco 49ers. "However, that excuse won't fly this year—for the coaching staff or, more importantly, the players."

Defense was the major problem. The Bears fell victim to countless big plays while also displaying enormous potential. The offense will be sound, with another year of seasoning in the West Coast system.

### OFFENSE

The comparison of quarterback Justin Vedder to Steve Young might hinge solely on the fact that the 6-0, 200-pound senior is a lefty, but Vedder does move well outside the pocket and can throw adequately on the run. He passed for 2,718 yards in '97, finishing behind Washington State's Ryan Leaf and UCLA's Cade McNown in the Pac-10. He did, however, throw 14 interceptions.

Marcus Fields is the starter at tailback after playing behind Tarik Smith last year. As a freshman last season, he rushed for 419 yards and five touchdowns and, at 6-2, 200, displayed both power and speed. His emergence forced Deltha O'Neal over to the secondary.

Wide receiver Dameane Douglas finished last year with 12 catches for 143 yards against Arizona and 11 for 143 versus Stan-

ford. With Bobby Shaw gone, Douglas, with close to 4.4 40 speed, will be featured and should post big numbers. Brian Surgener, who showed potential as a frosh last year, returns at tight end.

The offensive line was jolted by the loss of center Jeremy Newberry (left early for the NFL) but returns solid John Welbourn (6-5, 300) at right tackle and expects big things from 6-8, 340-pound left tackle Langston Walker, a redshirt freshman.

### DEFENSE

If they can figure out how to prevent the big play, this group could be substantially better in '98. On the line, there's strength at the end positions. On one side is 6-4, 245-pound Andre Carter, the son of former NFLer Rubin Carter. After being hotly recruited, Carter became a starter midway through last season and is a future great. Opposite him is the tandem of junior Mawuko Tugbenyoh and senior John McLaughlin.

Tugbenyoh registered five sacks last season. Junior tackle Jerry DeLoach has already started 14 games in his Cal career and will be solid at stuffing the run.

The workmanlike play of middle linebacker Matt Beck anchors the defense. The tackling machine was honorable mention All-Pac-10 last season and is flanked by Sekou Sanyika, a talented football player who has just been solid henceforth.

Marquis Smith is one of the best free safeties in the country, but otherwise the secondary, which only picked off four passes last year, is undistinguished.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

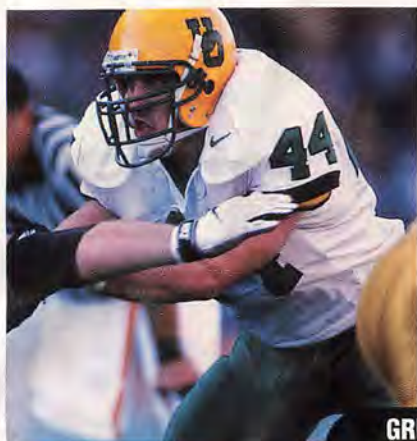
Punter Nick Harris had an excellent freshman season and solidifies the position for the next few years. At kicker, Ignacio Brache finished strong but was inconsistent, even on PATs (18 of 24). He'll battle senior Tim Wolleck and a few others to remain the starter. O'Neal is set to be the main return man for both punts and kickoffs.

### RECRUITING

Linebacker Jamaal Cherry, 6-3, 250, is a fierce run-stopper with great size and movement. He was considered the best prospect in Nevada. The other top talents are at receiver, starting with 6-1, 180-pound Mike Ainsworth from Monrovia, Calif. Ronnie Davenport, who caught 62 balls for 1,390 yards and 24 TDs at Woodside (Calif.), has good size at 6-2 and is likened to Shaw.

By Paul M. Johnson





PETER SIRMON-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Defense, especially against the run, must improve.
- Develop a starting running back.
- Utilize the talents of quarterbacks Smith and Maas.

Mike Bellotti had probably his busiest offseason at Oregon. Not only did he have to recruit players, he also had to court an offensive and defensive coordinator. Bellotti, who's had three winning seasons and gone to two bowl games in his three years in Eugene, convinced Fresno State offensive coordinator Jeff Tedford to assume the same position at Oregon. Bob Foster, formerly the head coach at Division II UC-Davis, was brought on board as defensive coordinator.

The new coaches have a tough road ahead of them. Foster will need to weed through the defensive line candidates. The Ducks also lose three top skill-position players: running back Saladin McCullough, wide receiver Pat Johnson and tight end Blake Spence.

"We obviously have a lot of questions to be answered this year in terms of who's going to play in the defensive line, who's going to play at tailback, fullback and tight end," Bellotti said. "But I do think we have a lot of answers."

## OFFENSE

Bellotti still has weapons on offense. Quarterbacks Akili Smith and Jason Maas effectively split time in '97 and led the Oregon offense to an average of 406 yards and 30.8 points per game. They will battle once again for the starting job, but both will see quite a bit of playing time. Waiting in reserve will be Oregon's quarterbacks of the future, sophomore A.J. Feeley and redshirt freshman Joey Harrington. "The quarterback position will be very competitive, and I'm very happy about that," Bellotti said.

Tony Hartley returns at one wideout. The other receiver, senior Damon Griffin, is the last player on the Oregon roster who played in the 1995 Rose Bowl, and he was second-team

All-Pac-10 in 1996 (43 catches, 711 yards and 7 TDs). He sat out 1997 with a thumb injury, but is expected to be 100 percent.

Replacing McCullough's 1,193 rushing yards is Bellotti's biggest headache. Derien Latimer, Kevin Parker and Jason Cooper each saw limited action last year with a combined 38 carries for 122 yards, but the job could go to JUCO rushing leader Reuben Droughns when he arrives in the fall. The offensive line returns four of five starters, headlined by tackles Marco Aguirre and Michael Klews. However, depth is a concern.

## DEFENSE

Oregon's defense ranked last in the Pac-10 in yards allowed, surrendering an average of 440.5 yards and 30.6 points per game. "We're still searching for the answer on defense," said Bellotti, who hopes that under Foster the Ducks develop "a sense of enthusiasm, confidence and desperation to get to the football."

Although eight starters return for 1998, the Ducks must replace their best lineman, Desmond Byrd, and their free safety, Jaiya Figueras. Fortunately, linebacker Peter Sirmon returns. He's the Pac-10's answer to Ohio State's Andy Katzenmoyer and led the conference with 104 tackles. He also had 4.5 sacks, 17 tackles for loss and two interceptions. He'll have help from junior Dietrich Moore, who returns to the outside linebacking position.

The line is experienced but undersized. "We will play seven, eight, maybe nine players over a course of a game because we aren't real big," Bellotti said. Eric Edwards and Rashad Bauman return at cornerback, while Justin Wilcox and Brandon McLemore will battle for the free safety position, and Michael Fletcher will occupy the rover spot.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Josh Bidwell is among the best punters in the Pac-10. JUCO transfer Nathan Villegas will take over the placekicking duties. McCullough and Johnson will be missed here, too. Jason Cooper and Michael Fletcher (kicks and punts) replace them.

## RECRUITING

Coach Bellotti described the 22-man class as being "as good as any we have had." Three of the top eight offensive linemen in the west committed to Oregon. In addition to Droughns, Bellotti signed Herman Ho-Ching, ranked as the 25th-best running back in the nation.

By Paul M. Johnson

## OREGON Facts

**Coach:** Mike Bellotti, 4th year, 22-13; 45-38-2 overall '97 Record: 7-5 (3-5 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Autzen Stadium, Eugene, Oregon (41,698; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (6 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Blake Spence, TE (1st team All-Pac-10); Saladin McCullough, RB (2nd team All-Pac-10); Pat Johnson, WR (2nd team All-Pac-10); Desmond Byrd, DE; Jaiya Figueras, FS

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jason Maas, Sr., 95-172-1,443 yards, 15 TDs, 8 INTs

**Rushing:** Akili Smith, Sr., 87 carries, 195 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Tony Hartley, Jr., 28, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Hartley, 426

**Tackles:** Peter Sirmon, Jr., 104

**Interceptions:** Three tied with 2

**Punting:** Josh Bidwell, Sr., 41.0 avg.

**Kicking:** Joshua Smith, Jr., 8-13 FGs (long 32), 25-28 PATs

**Scoring:** Smith, 49

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 MICHIGAN ST.  
9/12 @ UTEP  
9/19 SAN JOSE STATE  
9/26 STANFORD  
10/10 @ Washington St.  
10/17 @ UCLA  
10/24 USC  
11/31 @ Arizona  
11/7 WASHINGTON  
11/14 ARIZONA ST.  
11/22 @ Oregon St.

## 1997 RESULTS

ARIZONA; W, 16-9  
@ Nevada; W, 24-20  
FRESNO ST.; W, 43-40  
@ Stanford; L, 58-49  
WASHINGTON ST.; L, 24-13  
UCLA; L, 39-31  
UTAH; W, 31-13  
@ USC; L, 24-22  
@ Washington; W, 31-28  
@ Arizona St.; L, 52-31  
OREGON ST.; W, 48-30  
vs. Air Force; W, 41-13\*

\*Las Vegas Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Maas (Sr., 6-3, 215) A. Smith (Sr., 6-3, 215)\*  
RB: K. Parker (Sr., 5-10, 190) D. Latimer (Jr., 5-11, 208)  
FB: C. Young (Jr., 6-0, 212) C. Chance (So., 6-2, 216)  
WR: D. Griffin (Sr., 5-10, 180) L. Collins (So., 6-4, 220)  
WR: T. Hartley (Jr., 6-0, 190)\* D. Haynes (Sr., 5-9, 170)  
TE: J. Weaver (Sr., 6-3, 245) D. Pulido (Fr., 6-4, 233)  
LT: M. Aguirre (Sr., 6-4, 280)\* P. Driver (Jr., 6-2, 318)  
LG: S. deVries (Sr., 6-4, 275)\* K. Gerlits (Fr., 6-4, 280)  
C: D. Moen (Jr., 6-4, 280)\* B. Schmid (Fr., 6-4, 270)  
RG: M. Klews (Sr., 6-5, 310)\* M. Armendariz (Sr., 6-4, 290)  
RT: J. Beckett (Jr., 6-4, 327) S. Fergus (Sr., 6-6, 295)

### DEFENSE

DE: T. Miller (Jr., 6-4, 248)\* A. Martin (Sr., 6-5, 260)  
DT: C. Smith (Jr., 6-4, 265) M. Heamish (Sr., 6-4, 280)  
DT: L. Suajua (Sr., 6-3, 287)\* Z. Freiter (Fr., 6-3, 260)  
DE: S. Patu (So., 6-3, 260)\* J. Nikalao (So., 6-2, 280)  
LB: A. Cheuvront (Jr., 6-1, 237) J. Simpson (Sr., 6-1, 218)  
LB: P. Sirmon (Jr., 6-2, 246)\* C. Vandiver (Sr., 6-2, 213)  
LB: D. Moore (Jr., 6-1, 211)\* G. Sabol (So., 6-0, 200)  
CB: E. Edwards (Sr., 6-0, 184)\* S. Smith (Fr., 6-0, 182)  
CB: R. Bauman (So., 5-8, 170)\* T. Joiner (So., 5-10, 183)  
SS: M. Fletcher (Jr., 5-10, 195) G. Barker (So., 6-0, 195)  
FS: J. Wilcox (Jr., 6-2, 201) B. McLemore (Jr., 6-2, 215)\*

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: N. Villegas (Jr., 5-9, 165) D. Katz (So., 6-1, 186)  
P: J. Bidwell (Sr., 6-3, 230)\* N. Villegas (Jr., 5-9, 165)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• With 22 victories, Mike Bellotti has the most wins during the first three years of any coach in school history.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.ducks.uoregon.edu





## OREGON ST. Facts

**Coach:** Mike Riley, 2nd year, 3-8

**'97 Record:** 3-8 (0-8 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Parker Stadium, Corvallis, Ore. (35,362; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 18 (7 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Basheer Elahee, CB; Nathan McAtee, LB; Freddie Perez, OL; Trey Hyde, OL

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** None

**Rushing:** Ricky Walker, So., 274 yards, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Greg Ainsworth, Sr., 49

**Receiving (Yards):** Ainsworth, 600

**Tackles:** Brian Rogers, Sr., 76

**Interceptions:** Armon Hatcher, Sr., 3

**Punting:** Mike Fessler, So., 41.0 avg.

**Kicking:** Jose Cortez, Sr., 11-19 FGs (long 45),

18-19 PATs

**Points:** Cortez, 51

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 NEVADA  
9/12 BAYLOR  
9/19 @ USC  
9/26 @ Arizona St.  
10/3 @ Utah St.  
10/10 @ Stanford  
10/17 ARIZONA  
10/24 @ Washington  
10/31 CALIFORNIA  
11/7 UCLA  
11/21 OREGON

### 1997 RESULTS

NORTH TEXAS; W, 33-7  
STANFORD; L, 27-24  
ARIZONA ST.; L, 13-10  
SAN JOSE ST.; W, 26-12  
UTAH ST.; W, 24-16  
@ UCLA; L, 34-10  
WASHINGTON; L, 45-17  
@ California; L, 33-14  
@ Arizona; L, 27-7  
USC; L, 23-0  
@ Oregon; L, 48-30

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: T. Bryant (Jr., 6-2, 220) T. Tomich (Sr., 6-1, 190)  
RB: J. Dandridge (Sr., 6-0, 183) K. Simonton (Fr., 5-8, 181)  
WR: G. Ainsworth (Sr., 6-0, 192)\* B. Reynolds (Jr., 6-0, 180)  
WR: R. Tompkins (Jr., 6-0, 196)\* J. Battle (Sr., 6-3, 200)  
WR: T. Alexander (Sr., 6-0, 192)\* R. Prescott (So., 5-11, 178)  
TE: J. Kuykendall (Sr., 6-5, 271)\* M. Maurer (So., 6-5, 219)  
LT: K. DiDomenico (So., 6-5, 290) L. Ramirez (Sr., 6-6, 318)\*  
LG: J. Cornell (So., 6-2, 321) D. Jantz (So., 6-2, 290)  
C: A. Koch (Jr., 6-3, 294)\* C. Gibson (Fr., 6-3, 241)  
RG: R. Sykes (So., 6-5, 321) T. McCloughry (Fr., 6-3, 270)  
RT: M. Gartung (Sr., 6-6, 305)\* V. Sandoval (Fr., 6-3, 268)

#### DEFENSE

DE: I. Breckterfield (Sr., 5-11, 243)\* J. Braithwhite (Sr., 6-0, 232)  
DT: A. Wells (Jr., 6-0, 234)\* S. O'Reilly (So., 6-1, 246)  
NG: J. Greule (Sr., 6-4, 276)\* S. Ball (Jr., 6-0, 278)  
DE: K. Sykes (Sr., 6-1, 240) A. Sawatzke (Sr., 6-1, 239)\*  
LB: B. Rogers (Sr., 6-3, 243)\* M. Moore (Jr., 5-10, 210)  
LB: J. Jackson (Jr., 6-2, 238) B. Boice (Jr., 6-2, 223)  
LB: B. Jones (Sr., 6-4, 213)\* J. Allen (Fr., 6-1, 211)  
CB: A. Holland (Sr., 5-10, 183)\* K. Adams (Jr., 6-1, 202)  
CB: K. Johnson (So., 5-11, 178) D. Moran (So., 5-11, 194)  
SS: A. Hatcher (Sr., 6-1, 208)\* C. Carlyle (Fr., 6-0, 200)  
FS: T. Carroll (So., 6-0, 217)\* B. Marthaller (So., 6-0, 174)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Cortez (Sr., 6-0, 203)\* B. Beal (Fr., 5-10, 185)  
P: M. Fessler (So., 5-10, 213)\* J. Cortez (Sr., 5-11, 205)

\* Denotes returning starter

#### MILESTONE

• Inoke Breckterfield needs 13.5 sacks (one more than he recorded last season) to reach 50 in his career.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.osubeavers.com



INOKE BRECKTERFIELD-DE

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Revive a dormant running game without giving up on the pass.
- Defense needs to keep the offense in the game.
- Win at least four home games.

It was an unusual season a year ago in Corvallis. The 3-8 record, the Beavers' 27th consecutive losing mark, was familiar to fans, as were the team's all-black home uniforms. But the type of game being played—throwing with abandon while struggling to run the ball in this former home of the wishbone—was a shocking sight. And the changes have only begun.

"We have established ourselves as a sprint-out, play-action pass offensive team," second-year coach Mike Riley said. "I think we need to add the drop back and quick game to our passing attack."

Riley hasn't completely forgotten Oregon State's running past, admitting the Beavers need to improve a ground game which netted only 938 yards and 2.5 yards per carry last season. "We need to zero in on some runs that become our identity," Riley said.

Should the Beavers fail to do so, the streak of losing seasons will likely reach 28.

#### OFFENSE

Asking Tim Alexander, an option quarterback, to run a strictly passing offense was akin to handing a 16-year-old the keys to a Formula One race car. While Alexander easily found seams running around the ends, he struggled to find receivers as they attempted to find holes in the defensive secondary.

One of Riley's top recruiting priorities was to find a pro-style quarterback. Terrance Bryant (6-2, 220), who threw for 2,480 yards, 20 touchdowns and led City College of San Francisco to the California Community College championship game, could be the answer to Riley's needs. Since Bryant doesn't arrive in Corvallis until the fall, Riley had four quarterbacks battling for time during spring practice, but the job unquestionably is Bryant's to lose.

Meanwhile, Alexander has taken his 4.3 speed to the outside where he will start at flanker. Returnees Greg Ainsworth (49 receptions) and Roddy Tompkins (46) will also see plenty of action at wideout.

The running game, which needs to get more from incumbents Ricky Walker, Jason Dandridge and DeShawn Williams, should get a boost from JUCO transfer Avery Cummings (6-0, 205), who rushed for 926 yards and nine touchdowns at Sacramento City College. The line returns three starters in Aaron Koch, Larry Ramirez, and Matt Gartung, but depth will be a problem here.

#### DEFENSE

The Beavers' defense is experienced and loaded with potential, but if they don't increase the level of their play it won't mean much. Defensive end Inoke Breckterfield is one whose play has already reached great heights. The 5-11, 243-pound senior gave a hint of how dominant he truly can be in the season

finale against Oregon, when he recorded eight solo tackles, one assisted tackle, four tackles for losses and a pair of quarterback sacks. Breckterfield will be joined on the line by an experienced group of veterans that includes Aaron Wells and James Greule.

Brian Rogers, Bryan Jones and Jonathan Jackson provide strength and experience at linebacker. The secondary returns Andrae Holland at cornerback, and Armon Hatcher and Terrence Carroll at the safeties.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

Both incumbents lost their kicking jobs in fall practice last year, but don't expect a repeat this season. Jose Cortez took over for a struggling Randy Lund and made 11 of 19 field goals. Mike Fessler battled to win the punting duties, then averaged 41.0 yards per boot to secure his position for this season. Roddy Tompkins again will handle the punt-return duties after averaging 8.1 yards per return a year ago, and the speedy Hatcher again handles kickoffs.

#### RECRUITING

Bryant and Cummings lead Riley's second recruiting class, which has a decidedly California feel. Fifteen of the Beavers' 22 recruits hail from the Golden State compared to three players from Oregon. Among the recruits are a pair of quarterbacks who may stage future battles for the job: 6-5, 190-pound Tyler Thomas from Prosser, Wash., and 6-4, 190-pound Seth Trimmer, a local product out of Corvallis.

By Jonathan Dalton





R. JAY SOWARD-WR

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Decide early which running back will be featured.
- Hold the line on defense until offense finds itself.
- Pick one of the quarterbacks to groom for '98 and the future.

Disarray might be too strong a word, but this program is certainly not where it was just a few years ago. Coach John Robinson was excused/fired in a confusing turn of events that made athletic director Mike Garrett and the entire department look bad. The Trojans' last two seasons under Robinson were of the six-win, no-bowl variety, and even though he was responsible for as much success as any coach in Trojans history, he's now out and Paul Hackett is in.

"First, we must earn back our respect," said Hackett, who coached quarterbacks at USC from '76 to '80, a period when the Trojans won a national championship and four bowl games. "Our next goal is to go to the Rose Bowl. Until we reach those goals, we won't be satisfied and won't be able to rest."

Hackett, most recently the offensive coordinator for the Kansas City Chiefs, went 13-20-1 at the University of Pittsburgh in his only head coaching job ('90-'92), and is known as a great offensive mind and a fine developer of quarterbacks.

## OFFENSE

Hackett would like to feature a power running game out of the I or two-tight end set, which is a good thought considering the lack of an established thrower at quarterback. John Fox opened as the starter but his inconsistency cost him the job in midseason to Mike Van Raaphorst, who might have held on to it if he hadn't suffered an ankle sprain. One of Hackett's first priorities will be to figure out who his No. 1 quarterback will be.

Running back isn't settled, either. Malaefou MacKenzie is the top returning rusher with 332 yards, but the most talented member of the backfield is Chad Morton. Morton, whose brother Johnnie starred at wideout for USC before moving on to the Detroit Lions,

started four games at free safety before switching to offense. Although he's only 5-8, 180, he possesses terrific breakaway speed and had a 69-yard scoring run on his first carry in '97.

The deepest spot on the team is at wide receiver. R. Jay Soward has game-breaking ability and can score from anywhere on the field. Opposite him is Billy Miller, whose 56 catches lead this year's crop of Trojan returnees. Mike Bastianelli is a good possession receiver, and there's also transfer Windrell Hayes, who started his career at San Jose State, where he was the leading receiver in '95 and '96. Antoine Harris was one of the nation's best tight ends as a freshman in '97.

Junior right guard Travis Claridge has started all 23 games of his Trojan career and is the best on a line that starts two seniors at the tackle spots (Ken Bowen and Rome Douglas).

## DEFENSE

Eight starters—and one who started in '96—return from an inconsistent group. The Trojans excelled at stopping the run (93.8 ypg., eighth best in the nation and best in the Pac-10), but suffered mightily when opponents elected to throw (last in the conference at 266.5 ypg.).

The Trojans use a four-man front, where end Sultan Abdul-Malik excelled last year as a freshman, but a lack of depth might make it a trouble spot. The linebacking will be strong, anchored by Chris Claiborne in the middle, with Mark Cusano providing superior support on the outside. The secondary returns all four starters as well as Grant Pearsall, who started in '96 but redshirted last year because of a knee injury. Daylon McCutcheon returns at corner and will need to crank it up a notch after a somewhat disappointing junior campaign.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Adam Abrams returns after missing just one field goal in 11 attempts, but the punter's slot is wide open as Jim Wren has moved on. The explosive kick-return tandem of Soward and Morton are a threat to go all the way every time they touch the ball.

## RECRUITING

Hackett's first class, limited by only one month of recruiting, did net two great quarterbacks, Carson Palmer and Jason Thomas. Linebacker Darren Collins, who spent '92 through '95 in the Marines, will likely play right away. Another '98 contributor will be Matt Welch, a 6-6, 295-pound offensive tackle.

By Paul M. Johnson

## USC Facts

**Coach:** Paul Hackett, 1st year; 13-20-1 overall  
**'97 Record:** 6-5 (4-4 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles, Calif. (92,000; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 16 (7 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Brian Kelly, CB (1st-team All-Pac-10); Cedric Jefferson, DE; Delon Washington, RB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** John Fox, Jr., 153-280-1,940 yards, 12 TDs, 8 INTs  
**Rushing:** Malaefou MacKenzie, So., 96 carries, 332 yards, 3 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Billy Miller, Sr., 56, 2 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** R. Jay Soward, Jr., 831  
**Tackles:** Rashard Cook, Sr., 79  
**Sacks:** Chris Claiborne, Jr., and Sultan Abdul-Malik, So., 7  
**Interceptions:** Cook, 3  
**Punting:** None  
**Kicking:** Adam Abrams, Sr., 10-11 FG (long 46), 25-27 PATs  
**Scoring:** Soward, 66 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

8/30 vs. Purdue\*  
 9/12 SAN DIEGO ST.  
 9/19 OREGON ST.  
 9/26 @ Florida State  
 10/3 ARIZONA ST.  
 10/10 CALIFORNIA  
 10/17 @ Washington St.  
 10/24 @ Oregon  
 10/31 WASHINGTON  
 11/7 @ Stanford  
 11/14 @ UCLA  
 11/28 NOTRE DAME

\*Pigskin Classic

## 1997 RESULTS

FLORIDA ST.; L, 14-7  
 WASHINGTON ST.; L, 28-21  
 @ California; W, 27-17  
 UNLV; W, 35-21  
 @ Arizona St.; L, 35-7  
 @ Notre Dame; W, 20-17  
 OREGON; W, 24-22  
 @ Washington; L, 27-0  
 STANFORD; W, 45-21  
 @ Oregon St.; W, 23-0  
 UCLA; L, 31-24

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: M.V. Raaphorst (So., 6-5, 220) J. Fox (Jr., 6-4, 205)\*  
 RB: C. Morton (Jr., 5-8, 180) M. MacKenzie (So., 6-0, 210)  
 FB: T. Jacenda (So., 6-0, 225) M. Powell (Sr., 6-2, 235)  
 WR: B.J. Soward (Jr., 5-11, 180)\* L. Parker (Sr., 6-2, 195)  
 WR: B. Miller (Sr., 6-4, 210)\* M. Bastianelli (Fr., 6-1, 195)  
 TE: A. Harris (So., 6-4, 220)\* L. Ford (Fr., 6-3, 220)  
 LT: K. Bowen (Sr., 6-8, 330)\* J. Sugg (So., 6-6, 275)  
 LG: J. Grain (Jr., 6-5, 310) D. Kendrick (Jr., 6-4, 300)  
 C: M. McShane (Jr., 6-5, 285) E. Denmon (So., 6-2, 260)  
 RG: T. Claridge (Jr., 6-6, 300)\* T. Roberts (So., 6-4, 305)  
 RT: R. Douglas (Sr., 6-7, 300)\* M. Welch (So., 6-6, 295)

### DEFENSE

DE: L. Larry (Sr., 6-3, 240) R. Nielsen (Fr., 6-5, 235)  
 DT: M. Matoch (Sr., 6-5, 280)\* E. Davis (So., 6-4, 295)  
 DT: A. Williams (Jr., 6-4, 270) S. Shaheed (So., 6-4, 260)  
 DE: S. Abdul-Malik (So., 6-3, 225)\* K. Dickerson (Fr., 6-4, 215)  
 LB: D. Knight (Fr., 6-2, 195) J. Steen (So., 6-4, 220)  
 LB: C. Claiborne (Jr., 6-3, 250)\* M. Pollard (Fr., 6-1, 220)  
 LB: M. Cusano (Sr., 6-2, 225)\* Z. Moreno (So., 6-3, 240)  
 CB: D. McCutcheon (Sr., 5-11, 175)\* K. Richard (Fr., 6-0, 170)  
 CB: A. Simmons (So., 5-11, 185)\* K. Haslip (Sr., 5-10, 170)  
 SS: D. Gibson (Jr., 6-2, 215)\* G. Pearsall (Sr., 6-1, 210)  
 FS: R. Cook (Sr., 6-1, 200)\* D. Lacy (So., 6-3, 195)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

P: M. MacGillivray (Fr., 5-10, 205) D. Bell (So., 6-1, 200)  
 K: A. Abrams (Sr., 5-9, 185)\* D. Bell (So., 6-1, 200)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• USC has lost seven straight to UCLA, the longest streak of the crosstown series that began in 1929.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.usctrojans.com



# STANFORD Facts



# Stanford

**Coach:** Tyrone Willingham, 4th year, 19-15-1

**'97 Record:** 5-6 (3-5 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Stanford Stadium, Stanford, Calif. (85,500, grass)

**Returning Starters:** 10 (6 off., 3 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Kailee Wong, DE (1st-team All-Pac-10); Chris Draft, LB (2nd-team All-Pac-10); Anthony Bookman, RB; Mike Mitchell, TB; WR Damon Dunn

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Chad Hutchinson, Jr., 189-315-2, 101 yards, 10 TDs, 10 INTs

**Rushing:** Juan-Carlos Lacey, Jr., 8 carries, 40 yards

**Receiving (Catches):** Troy Walters, Sr., 86

**Receiving (Yards):** Walters, 1,206

**Sacks:** Willie Howard, Sr., 2

**Interceptions:** Chris Johnson, Sr., 3

**Punting:** Kevin Miller, Sr., 43.3 avg.

**Kicking:** Miller, 5-8 FGs (long 37); 28-30 PATs

**Scoring:** Walters, 60

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 SAN JOSE ST.  
9/12 ARIZONA  
9/19 NORTH CAROLINA  
9/26 @ Oregon  
10/3 @ Notre Dame  
10/10 OREGON ST.  
10/17 @ Arizona St.  
10/31 @ UCLA  
11/7 USC  
11/14 WASHINGTON ST.  
11/21 @ California

## 1997 RESULTS

SAN JOSE ST.; W, 28-12  
@ North Carolina; L, 28-17  
@ Oregon St.; W, 27-24  
OREGON; W, 58-49  
NOTRE DAME; W, 33-15  
@ Arizona; L, 28-22  
ARIZONA ST.; L, 31-14  
UCLA; L, 27-7  
@ USC; L, 45-21  
@ Washington St.; W, 38-28  
CALIFORNIA; W, 21-20

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: C. Hutchinson (Sr., 6-5, 230)\* T. Husak (Jr., 6-3, 210)  
RB: J.C. Lacey (Jr., 5-10, 195) E. Gayles (So., 5-9, 190)  
FB: M. Stevenson (Sr., 5-11, 242) D. Brown (Sr., 6-0, 210)  
WR: T. Walters (Sr., 5-8, 176)\* J. Allen (Sr., 6-4, 210)  
WR: D. Pitts (Jr., 5-11, 190) D. Davis (So., 6-1, 178)  
TE: B. Stewart (Jr., 6-5, 230) S. Coughlin (Jr., 6-4, 240)  
LT: J. Cronshagen (Sr., 6-7, 295)\* B. Donoghue (Sr., 6-6, 285)  
LG: J. Fairchild (Sr., 6-6, 285)\* J. Abendschein (Jr., 6-4, 260)  
C: M. McLaughlin (Sr., 6-4, 290)\* Z. Quaccia (So., 6-4, 265)  
RG: A. Kroeker (Sr., 6-4, 295) M. Motherway (Sr., 6-4, 275)  
RT: G. Wilson (Sr., 6-7, 300)\* B. Garrison (So., 6-8, 265)

### DEFENSE

DE: B. Johnson (Jr., 6-3, 235) J. Telesmanich (Jr., 6-3, 245)  
NT: A. Currie (Sr., 6-4, 270) T. Pfeifer (So., 6-4, 260)  
DT: W. Howard (Jr., 6-4, 278)\* D. Kass (Jr., 6-5, 255)  
DE: S. Benner (Jr., 6-5, 260) M. Hoover (So., 6-4, 245)  
LB: D. Spragan (Sr., 6-4, 237)\* B. Toner (Sr., 6-3, 245)  
LB: M. Stockbauer (Sr., 6-3, 230) D. Brunetti (Jr., 6-1, 223)  
LB: S. Steen (Sr., 6-1, 235) C. Amajor (Jr., 6-0, 222)  
CB: C. Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 185)\* M. Sanders (Jr., 5-11, 170)  
CB: F. Primus (Sr., 5-11, 190) E. Herring (Sr., 5-10, 180)  
SS: T. Merrill (Jr., 6-3, 215) T. Bass (Sr., 5-11, 195)  
FS: T. Smith (Sr., 6-4, 220) E. Patterson (Jr., 5-11, 200)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: P. Shinnfield (Sr., 6-0, 190) M. Biselli (So., 5-11, 185)  
P: K. Miller (Sr., 6-0, 200)\* P. Shinnfield (Sr., 6-0, 190)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

•Troy Walters is on pace to break Justin Armour's all-time Stanford receiving record of 2,482 yards this season.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.gostanford.com



TROY WALTERS-WR

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Get experience quickly — only six players are in their final year of eligibility.
- Get the ball to Troy Walters as often as possible
- Settle on a new defensive lineup

Stanford coach Tyrone Willingham is fond of saying that the job of a winner is to develop players. He'll have every chance to be a winner this season. Whether that translates into enough victories to surpass last year's 5-6 team is another story.

Willingham will be missing at least eight defensive starters, he'll be without his starting running backs, who finished their careers as the third- and fourth-best rushers in Cardinal history, and his starting quarterback is expected to be an early-round pick in June's Major League Baseball draft after skipping spring practice to pitch for the Stanford team.

In most cases, that would be cause for alarm. But not for Willingham. "There are a number of young players who have not had the opportunity to show what they can do in a game situation," he said. This year, they will get that chance.

### OFFENSE

Former Washington quarterbacks coach Bill Diedrick begins his first year as the Cardinal offensive coordinator. He has two concerns: quarterback and running back. But he also has two sure things: the Pac-10's top returning receivers and an intact offensive line.

Hutchinson will likely be back, even if he decides to play baseball. That would be in the tradition of another former Stanford quarterback who played minor league baseball and then returned to school to quarterback the football team—the Denver Broncos' John Elway. Hutchinson completed 60 percent of his passes last season for 2,101 yards. However, he threw 10 INTs against 10 TD passes. If he doesn't return, junior Todd Husak, who threw 78 passes last season, and sophomore Randy Fasani will battle for the job. Anthony Bookman, Mike Mitchell, Jon Ritchie, and Greg Comella, who combined for 1,584 yards

on the ground last season, are gone. The top returning back is Juan-Carlos Lacey, who carried the ball just eight times. Maxwell Stevenson, a 5-11, 242-pound senior, is the only full-back with game experience.

Troy Walters had a record-breaking season at wide receiver, catching 86 passes for 1,206 yards. Several candidates will battle for the other wide-receiver spot, including DeRonnie Pitts, who caught 13 passes last season. The tight end job is Russell Stewart's to lose. On the offensive line Jeff Cronshagen, Joe Fairchild, Mike McLaughlin and Geoff Wilson are back, as is Andrew Kroeker, who started eight games last year.

### DEFENSE

Only three starters return: nose tackle Willie Howard, linebacker Donnie Spragan and cornerback Chris Johnson. That means a virtual make-over is in store for the Cardinal. Howard started all 11 games last year at nose tackle, but will move to defensive tackle. Andrew Currie, a two-time letterman, will move in-

to the starting lineup at nose tackle and Riall Johnson will move to defensive end. Spragan will be teamed with a pair of seniors—Marc Stockbauer and Sharcus Steen. Both have played extensively, but haven't started. Johnson had six interceptions last year and is technically the lone returning starter in the defensive backfield, but Tim Smith, who missed the final nine games of last season with a knee injury, is expected to return at full strength to play free safety.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Kevin Miller has been the punter for three seasons and the placekicker for two. He may concentrate solely on the punting chores this season if Willingham has his way. Miller had five punts downed at the 1-yard-line. Patrick Shinnfield and Mike Biselli will battle for the placekicking duties. Neither has kicked in a game, however.

### RECRUITING

The Cardinal had a stellar recruiting year. Five prep All-Americans—all offensive linemen—are headed to the Farm, along with six defensive backs, some of whom could start this season. Mark Leonard is the top defensive lineman, and Eric Heitmann, a 6-4, 282-pound second-team prep All-American, is the top offensive lineman. Greg Schindler (6-5, 300) could also see time right away. Prep All-Americans Chijoke Asomougha, Colin Branch and Brian Taylor will get a chance to play in the secondary.

By David Kraft





CADE McNOWN-QB

What a difference a few weeks makes. Coach Bob Toledo came in at the beginning of '96 amidst some doubts he was the man for the job, changed the offense, and saw the Bruins finish with a 5-6 record. Then, the '97 team started 0-2 and Toledo was on the receiving end of the low-brand heat of the L. A. media. Three-and-a-half months later, the Bruins finished the season with a Cotton Bowl victory, 10 straight wins, and Toledo was Albert Einstein coaching football. In '98, Toledo's system returns with Heisman Trophy candidate Cade McNown at the controls, and the Bruins will play with the confidence of the nation's elite.

## OFFENSE

The Bruins will be happy to duplicate their offensive numbers from '97—40.7 points per game, 16 scoring drives that lasted less than one minute, 172 points in a three-game span (Texas, Arizona, Houston). It will definitely be tougher without tailback Skip Hicks, who rushed for 1,282 yards and scored 26 times. "I don't think we'll replace Skip Hicks," Toledo said. "I think we've got some guys that we can insert in there that'll play well for us."

The go-to guy should be Keith Brown, who gained 282 yards in a backup role last season. When Hicks was down with an injury against Oregon, Brown gained 88 yards on 14 carries. Also competing for the job is Jermaine Lewis.

McNown returns for his fourth year as a starter at quarterback, and no team in the nation will be in as capable hands as the Bruins. If there's an occasional lack of a controlled running game in '98, McNown will relish the opportunity to throw more. He enters the season having thrown for 200-plus yards in 15 consecutive games.

Junior split end Danny Farmer will likely

be McNown's main receiver. Last year he caught 41 balls for 649 yards and three TDs. Sophomore Brian Poli-Dixon will start at flanker and junior possession-type Brad Melsby will see time behind Farmer.

Gone is All-American tackle Chad Overhauser, but junior Kris Farris (6-9, 310) and senior Andy Meyers (6-5, 313) return to a good offensive line.

## DEFENSE

Only four starters return from an aggressive group which forced 40 turnovers. Don't expect much of a drop-off. "We're young, but we're not inexperienced like we were a couple years ago... because the young guys last year got an opportunity to play [when] we scored a lot of points," Toledo said.

Second-team All-American strong safety Larry Atkins is one of the nation's best returning defenders. He intercepted six passes, recovered three fumbles, and blocked three field goals last season. He is joined by corners Marques Anderson and Jason Bell. Junior Eric Whitfield replaces All-American Shaun Williams at free safety.

Linebacker is a potential soft spot. The Bruins need to fill four spots with a group that includes only a couple of seniors, starting with outside man Brendon Ayanbadejo. He led the team last year with 15 tackles for losses. Like last year, Bruin linebackers will maintain an attacking style and will be a big part of the team's blitz scheme.

Junior nose guard Pete Holland is the only returner on the Bruins' three-man front. Two sophomores, Kenyon Coleman and Micah Webb, will start at ends.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior Chris Sailer returns, meaning both the punting and placekicking duties are secure and in good hands. He received All-American consideration at both positions. The tailbacks who get less time in the offense will be returning punts and kickoffs.

## RECRUITING

The Bruins lost the heated battle over local running back Justin Fargas to Michigan, but still produced a class that many experts consider the best in the nation. In comes the less-publicized running back DeShaun Foster, 6-1, 205, also from Southern California, who could be as good or better than Fargas. Also arriving is the athletic Lovell Houston, a 6-1, 175-pound defensive back who had six touchdown returns last year in high school.

By Paul M. Johnson

## UCLA Facts

**Coach:** Bob Toledo, 3rd year, 15-8; 29-38 overall

**'97 Record:** 10-2 (7-1 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif. (94,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (7 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Chad Overhauser, T (1st-team All-American); Skip Hicks, TB (1st-team All-Pac-10); Shaun Williams, FS (1st-team All-Pac-10); Jim McElroy, WR (2nd-team All-Pac-10)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Cade McNown, Sr., 189-312-3, 116 yards, 24 TDs, 6 INTs

**Rushing:** Jermaine Lewis, So., 56 carries, 282 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Danny Farmer, Jr., 41, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Farmer, 649

**Tackles:** Larry Atkins, Sr., 44

**Sacks:** Brendon Ayanbadejo, Sr., 4.5

**Interceptions:** Atkins, 6

**Punting:** Chris Sailer, Sr., 43.1 avg.

**Kicking:** Sailer, 19-24 FG (long 56), 52-54 PATs

**Scoring:** Sailer, 109 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/12 TEXAS  
9/19 @ Houston  
9/26 @ Miami (Fla.)  
10/3 WASHINGTON ST.  
10/10 @ Arizona  
10/17 OREGON  
10/24 @ California  
10/31 STANFORD  
11/7 OREGON ST.  
11/14 @ Washington  
11/21 USC

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Washington St.; L, 37-34  
TENNESSEE; L, 30-24  
@ Texas; W, 66-3  
ARIZONA; W, 40-27  
HOUSTON; W, 66-10  
@ Oregon; W, 39-31  
OREGON ST.; W, 34-10  
CALIFORNIA; W, 35-17  
@ Stanford; W, 27-7  
WASHINGTON; W, 52-28  
@ USC; W, 31-24  
vs. Texas A&M; W, 29-23\*  
\*Cotton Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: C. McNown (Sr., 6-1, 214)\* D. Bennett (So., 6-5, 195)  
TB: K. Brown (Jr., 6-0, 214) J. Lewis (So., 5-7, 177)  
FB: C. Walendy (Sr., 6-1, 229)\* D. Price (Jr., 6-0, 226)  
WR: D. Farmer (Jr., 6-4, 210)\* B. Melsby (Jr., 6-1, 193)  
WR: B. Poli-Dixon (So., 6-5, 205) C. Joyce (Fr., 6-1, 192)  
TE: M. Grieb (Sr., 6-4, 248)\* R. Neufeld (Sr., 6-4, 238)  
LT: K. Farris (Jr., 6-9, 310)\* E. Anderson (Fr., 6-5, 287)  
LG: O. Cabrera (So., 6-4, 308) M. Phelan (Jr., 6-4, 280)  
C: S. Stuart (Sr., 6-3, 300)\* T. Danoff (Fr., 6-4, 297)  
RG: A. Meyers (Sr., 6-5, 313)\* B. Polak (So., 6-4, 317)  
RT: D. Wilford (Fr., 6-5, 280) D. Cummings (So., 6-5, 294)

### DEFENSE

DE: K. Coleman (So., 6-5, 265) J. Webb (So., 6-6, 280)  
NT: P. Holland (Jr., 6-3, 270)\* S. Sua (Fr., 6-1, 246)  
DE: M. Webb (So., 6-5, 267) T. Turner (So., 6-4, 247)  
LB: M. Wiley (Jr., 6-2, 234) S. Hall (Fr., 6-2, 243)  
LB: R. Huma (Jr., 6-1, 223) B. Nece (Jr., 6-2, 203)  
LB: T. White (So., 6-1, 235) C. Caldwell (Sr., 6-1, 242)  
LB: B. Ayanbadejo (Sr., 6-2, 234)\* A. Azziz (Jr., 6-2, 224)  
CB: M. Anderson (So., 6-0, 182)\* D. Allen (So., 5-9, 170)  
CB: J. Bell (Jr., 6-1, 177) R. Roques (Jr., 6-0, 190)  
SS: L. Atkins (Sr., 6-4, 218)\* D. Hicks (Sr., 6-1, 207)  
FS: E. Whitfield (Jr., 6-1, 201) J. Stephens (Fr., 6-2, 193)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

P: C. Sailer (Sr., 5-10, 200)\* Z. Haselmo (Fr., 6-1, 188)  
K: C. Sailer (Sr., 5-10, 200)\* Z. Haselmo (Fr., 6-1, 188)  
\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

The Bruins finished '97 with 10 consecutive victories, tying the school record set in 1946.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.uclabruins.com



## WASHINGTON Facts

**Coach:** Jim Lambright, 6th year, 38-19-1

**'97 Record:** 8-4 (5-3)

**Home Stadium:** Husky Stadium, Seattle, Wash., (72,500; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (5 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Rashaan Shehee, RB (1st-team All-Pac-10); Jerome Pathon, WR (1st-team All-Pac-10); Cameron Cleeland, TE (1st-team All-Pac-10); Olin Kreutz, OL (1st-team All-Pac-10); Benji Olson, OL (1st-team All-Pac-10); Jason Chorak, DE (1st-team All-Pac-10); Jerry Jensen, LB (1st-team All-Pac-10)

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Brock Huard, Jr., 164-274-2,319 yards, 25 TDs, 10 INTs

**Rushing:** Maurice Shaw, Sr., 131 carries, 572 yards, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Shaw, 9

**Receiving (Yards):** Ja'Warren Hooker, So., 136

**Tackles:** Lester Towns, 89

**Sacks:** Towns, 5

**Punting:** Sean O'Laughlin, Sr., 39.2

**Kicking:** Nick Lentz, So., 7-10 FGs (long 46), 30-34 PATs

**Scoring:** Lentz, 51 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Arizona St.  
9/19 BYU  
9/26 @ Nebraska  
10/3 ARIZONA  
10/10 UTAH ST.  
10/17 CALIFORNIA  
10/24 OREGON ST.  
10/31 @ USC  
11/7 @ Oregon  
11/14 UCLA  
11/21 @ Washington St.

### 1997 RESULTS

@ BYU; W, 42-20  
SAN DIEGO ST.; W, 36-3  
NEBRASKA; L, 27-14  
ARIZONA ST.; W, 26-14  
@ California; W, 30-3  
@ Arizona; W, 58-28  
@ Oregon St.; W, 45-17  
USC; W, 27-0  
OREGON; L, 31-28  
@ UCLA; L, 52-28  
WASHINGTON ST.; L, 41-35  
vs. Michigan St.; W, 51-23\*

\* Aloha Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Huard (Jr., 6-5, 220)\* M. Tuiasosopo (So., 6-1, 200)  
TB: M. Shaw (Jr., 6-1, 210, Jr.) J. Harris (So., 6-0, 205)  
FB: P. Conniff (So., 6-1, 220)\* D. Johnson (So., 6-3, 220)  
WR: M. Austin (So., 6-2, 185) D. Looker (So., 6-1, 185)  
WR: J. Hooker (So., 5-11, 165) M. Kasim (Sr., 5-9, 170)  
TE: R. Davis (Sr., 6-3, 230) J. Westra (So., 6-5, 235)  
LT: E. Silvers (So., 6-6, 300) J. Collier (Fr., 6-7, 265)  
LG: T. Coats (Sr., 6-7, 300)\* Z. McCall (So., 6-5, 330)  
C: Brad Hutt (Sr., 6-3, 285) Kyle Benn (So., 6-3, 295)  
RG: C. Ward (So., 6-5, 310)\* M. Fraize (So., 6-4, 295)  
RT: A. Dalan (Sr., 6-7, 320)\* B. Nelson (Fr., 6-5, 270)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Pharms (So., 6-1, 235) G. Robinson (So., 6-2, 238)  
DT: J. Issa (Jr., 6-6, 300) J. Seida (Sr., 6-2, 250)  
NT: M. Tuiaaea (Jr., 6-6, 290)\* L. Tripplett (Sr., 6-2, 250)  
LB: R. Julian (So., 6-6, 250) A. Nevens (Sr., 6-1, 220)  
LB: M. Hairston (Sr., 6-2, 235)\* C. Waddell (So., 6-1, 215)  
LB: L. Towns (Jr., 6-3, 240)\* J. Johnson (Sr., 6-2, 210)  
LB: T. Johnson (Sr., 6-2, 210) D. Daniels (So., 6-1, 210)  
CB: J. Smith (Jr., 5-11, 160)\* W. Davis (Fr., 5-11, 160)  
CB: M. Miller (Jr., 5-11, 190)\* T. Butler (So., 5-9, 160)  
SS: N. Burton (Sr., 5-9, 180)\* A. Burleson (Sr., 6-1, 190)  
FS: O. Lowe (So., 6-0, 175) B. Jones (Sr., 5-11, 185)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

P: S. O'Laughlin (Sr., 6-0, 190)\* B. Fleming (So., 6-3, 180)  
K: N. Lentz (So., 5-11, 170)\* J. Skurski (Fr., 5-11, 175)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

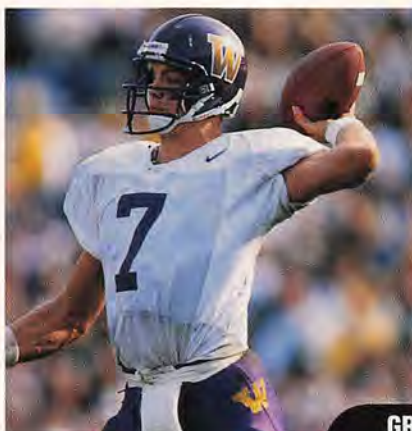
• Quarterback Brock Huard needs only 1,685 yards to pass brother Damon as Washington's all-time leading passer.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.washington.edu/huskysports.com



# Washington



BROCK HUARD-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Develop go-to guy for Huard.
- Defensive line must create pass rush.
- Running game can't fall too far from standard set by Shehee.

The Huskies won their first victory of 1998 on January 7, when Brock Huard, their star quarterback, decided to come back for his junior season. "My bottom line was to follow my own heart and dreams," Huard said.

For coach Jim Lambright, it was a nice way to end the first week of the new year, a week that reflected the ups and downs that a college coach has to deal with in the 90s. Just days before, All-Pac-10 offensive lineman Olin Kreutz and Benji Olson had announced that they were making themselves eligible for the NFL draft. And the buzz around Seattle was that Huard would be the next to go. So Lambright was relieved, to say the least, when Huard called him the night before his announcement to tell his coach he was staying.

With Huard back, Washington is a Pac-10 contender. The Huskies were 8-0 with a healthy Huard, including an Aloha Bowl thrashing of Michigan State. With a hobbled Huard, the Huskies went 0-4. Not that the Huskies are home free. Washington lost eight All-Pac-10 players from last season's squad. But at least now they have a fighting chance.

### OFFENSE

Huard threw for 2,319 yards and 25 touchdowns last season, and ranked seventh nationally in passing efficiency. "As Brock goes, so does Washington," said offensive coordinator Scott Linehan.

Huard lost his two top wide receivers, but Lambright is excited about sophomore Ja'Warren Hooker, the big-play receiver Washington craves. Three of his first six catches were for touchdowns. Patrick Reddick, another sophomore, will get a look at possession receiver, as will Andre DeSausure, Joe Jarzynka and Gerald Harris, who comes back from knee surgery. At tight end, Reggie Davis must fill the shoes of the depart-

ed Cameron Cleeland, a tall order as Cleeland was taken by the New Orleans Saints in the second round of the 1998 NFL Draft.

At running back, the talented Rashaan Shehee is gone. Maurice Shaw is the incumbent, but he suffers from chronic back pain and didn't play in the spring. Jason Harris and freshman Jabari Johnson need to step it up.

With Kreutz and Olson, Washington would have had the best line in the Pac-10. Even without them, it will be good—and it needs to be to protect Huard. Brad Hutt, who moves to center in place of Kreutz, and Tony Coats, who moves to guard to replace Olson, will be in the spotlight.

### DEFENSE

Six starters return, but the line must replace defensive ends Jason Chorak and Chris Campbell, who took 12 sacks with them when they graduated. Mac Tuiaaea and Jabari Issa anchor the returnees, but there's a rather large newcomer who could make a difference. Defensive

tackle Toalei Mulitauaoepele (6-7, 320), who spent 3½ years in jail for manslaughter and hasn't played since 1996 at Walla Walla CC, will be given an opportunity to clog up the middle.

The linebacking corps features Lester Towns and Marques Hairston. Towns had five sacks among his 89 tackles, and Hairston contributed 51 tackles. The secondary is a similar story—three starters return: cornerbacks Mel Miller and Jermaine Smith along with rover Nigel Burton. Brendan Jones, a senior, will likely replace Tony Parish at free safety.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Nick Lentz, who took over the placekicking job at midseason, and punter Sean O'Laughlin, who lost his job late in the year, are both back. Lentz kicked eight field goals last season; O'Laughlin averaged 39.2 yards per punt. Both will face some serious competition, however, in fall drills—mainly from walk-on freshman Jim Skurski, who could win the kicking job.

### RECRUITING

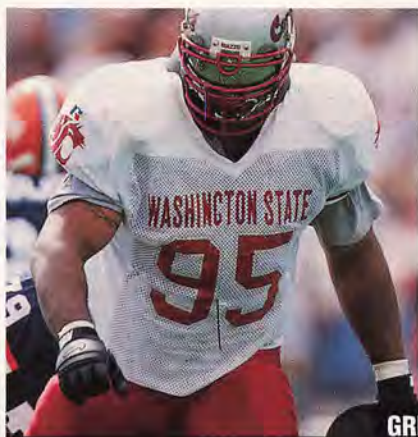
Washington is rarely mentioned in the nation's top recruiting classes—and this year is no exception. There isn't an All-American in the bunch. Two running backs from Compton, Calif.—Willie Hurst and Jelani Harrison—could see immediate playing time. Anthony Kelley of Altadena, Calif., who at one time said he was headed to Michigan, may play in the secondary.

By David Kraft





# Washington St.



GARY HOLMES-DT

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a quarterback to replace Ryan Leaf.
- Take advantage of soft early-season schedule.
- Fill gaps on the offensive line created by graduation.

The jokes were 69 years in the making. "The last time Washington State was in the Rose Bowl, the earth was still molten," went one. "How does a Cougar get Rose Bowl tickets? He marries a Husky," went another.

Well, the jokes are no longer funny. Here's what going to its first New Year's Day bowl game in 69 years did for Washington State. Gone are the wisecracks, the inferiority complex, and the laissez-faire attitude from fans that saw Washington State sell out exactly one game at 40,000-seat Martin Stadium last season. The Cougar bandwagon to Pasadena had nearly that many fans.

Unfortunately for Washington State, also gone are the No. 2 NFL draft pick at quarterback, four-fifths of a talented wide-receiving crop, four-fifths of what turned into one of the best offensive lines in the Pac-10, a 1,000-yard running back and five of the front seven on defense.

In all, 33 lettermen return—the fewest of any school in the Pac-10. Only eight of them are starters—just two on offense. "[The '98 team is] not going to be the same as the Rose Bowl team," coach Mike Price said.

Not by a long shot.

## OFFENSE

Ryan Leaf is gone, but it will be a while before his replacements can make him be forgotten. Steve Birnbaum was Leaf's backup, but he threw only 19 times and missed spring drills after knee surgery. Sophomore Paul Mencke—who's Leaf-like at 6-5—and redshirt freshman Sam Baurichter are the only other returnees. JUCO transfer Bryan Paul and freshman Jason Gesser will get a close look, but Mencke has the inside track to the job.

Also gone is running back Michael Black. His replacement is likely either DeJuan

Gilmore, who ran for 295 yards and averaged eight yards per carry last season, or JUCO All-American Kevin Brown.

The much-heralded Fab Five receiving corps—which accounted for 189 of Washington State's 240 receptions a year ago—is down to one: Senior Nian Taylor, who started three games and caught 22 passes. Iowa transfer Alexe Rodopoulos and redshirt freshman Adam Davis should see action, along with Leaford Hackett, a sophomore transfer from Los Angeles Valley JC. Tight end Love Jefferson, a key to last season's success, is back and will see the ball more often.

The offensive line—dubbed the Fat Five last year—returns only left tackle Rob Rainville. Four backups and three JUCO transfers will battle for starting spots.

## DEFENSE

The secondary will be the strength of a unit that figures to be as green as any in the Pac-10.

Starting cornerback Dee Moronkola and safety Lamont Thompson, who had six interceptions, are the anchors. LeJuan Gibbons, who started eight games at cornerback, and Torry Hollimon, who started three games at strong safety, move up to first string.

Gary Holmes is the only returnee on the defensive line and Steve Gleason is the lone veteran linebacker. Four backups will get a chance to win starting jobs on the defensive line: Rob Meier, Jonathan Nance, Jesse Ratcliff and Taeo Salausa.

Grady Emmerson, Austin Matson and Tom Wagner are penciled in at linebacker along with Gleason. Redshirt freshman Raonall Smith ran a 4.38 40 in spring practice and may get a long look.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Fab Five graduations hurt here, too. Shawn Tims was an exceptional return man for the Cougars. The kicking game, however, is in solid shape. Placekicker Rian Lindell, who made 57-of-60 extra points last season, is back for his junior season. Punter Jeff Banks graduated, but JUCO transfer Kareem Anderson is a capable replacement.

## RECRUITING

Price got the one player he wanted—Gesser of Honolulu. "I think he's the best quarterback in the western United States," Price said. As usual at Washington State, several transfers will get extended shots at winning starting jobs, including Anderson (punter), Brown (running back), Hackett (wide receiver) and Martin (defensive back).

By David Kraft

## WASHINGTON ST. Facts

**Coach:** Mike Price, 10th year, 53-49; 99-93 overall

**'97 Record:** 10-2 (7-1 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Martin Stadium, Pullman, Wash. (40,000; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 8 (2 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** QB Ryan Leaf (Pac-10 offensive Player of the Year); DT Leon Bender (1st-team All-Pac 10), OL Jason McEndoo (2nd-team All-Pac 10); OL Cory Winthrow (2nd-team All-Pac 10); DE Dorian Boose (2nd-team All-Pac 10)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Steve Birnbaum, Jr., 11-19-152 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

**Rushing:** DeJuan Gilmore, Sr., 37 carries, 295 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (catches):** Nian Taylor, Sr., 22, 6 TDs

**Receiving (yards):** Taylor, 570

**Tackles:** Steve Gleason, Sr., 100

**Sacks:** None

**Interceptions:** Lamont Thompson, So., 6

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Rian Lindell, Sr., 12-17 FGs (long 57), 57-60 PATs

**Scoring:** Lindell, 93 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 ILLINOIS  
9/12 @ Boise St.  
9/19 IDAHO  
9/26 @ California  
10/3 @ UCLA  
10/10 OREGON  
10/17 USC  
10/31 ARIZONA ST.  
11/7 @ Arizona  
11/14 @ Stanford  
11/21 WASHINGTON

## 1997 RESULTS

UCLA; W, 37-34  
@ USC; W, 28-21  
@ Illinois; W, 35-22  
BOISE ST.; W, 58-0  
@ Oregon; W, 24-13  
CALIFORNIA; W, 63-37  
ARIZONA; W, 35-34  
@ Arizona St.; L, 44-31  
SW LOUISIANA; W, 77-7  
STANFORD; W, 38-28  
@ Washington; W, 41-35  
vs. Michigan; L, 21-16\*

\*Rose Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: P. Mencke (So., 6-5, 229) S. Birnbaum (Jr., 6-4, 205)  
RB: D. Gilmore (Jr., 5-8, 204) K. Brown (Jr., 6-3, 220)  
WR: Nian Taylor (Sr., 6-2, 200) Matt Shaw (Sr., 6-1, 200)  
WR: A. Rodopoulos (Jr., 6-3, 200) T. Woody (Jr., 6-3, 205)  
WR: A. Davis (Fr., 5-11, 164) J. White (Fr., 5-11, 165)  
TE: L. Jefferson (Sr., 6-2, 261)\* C. Scott (Jr., 6-3, 245)  
LT: R. Rainville (Sr., 6-5, 323)\* L. W. Schulz (Sr., 6-4, 282)  
LG: R. Tujague (Sr., 6-6, 292) L. W. Schulz (Sr., 6-4, 282)  
C: M. Long (Sr., 6-4, 304) M. Scharz (Jr., 6-2, 300)  
RG: M. Sage (Sr., 6-2, 318) R. Raymond (So., 6-7, 308)  
RT: R. Raymond (So., 6-8, 308) J. Criscione (Sr., 6-3, 300)

### DEFENSE

DE: B. Meier (Jr., 6-6, 266) A. Matson (So., 6-3, 246)  
DT: G. Holmes (Sr., 6-8, 312)\* J. Agnew (Jr., 6-4, 311)  
DT: T. Salausa (Sr., 6-3, 284) T. Blash (Jr., 6-3, 261)  
DE: J. Nance (Sr., 6-4, 234)\* S. Marong (Fr., 6-1, 226)  
LB: S. Gleason (Jr., 5-11, 215)\* J. Price (So., 5-11, 211)  
LB: T. Tuupo (Fr., 6-2, 245) R. Smith (Fr., 6-2, 232)  
LB: B. Philley (So., 6-2, 212) T. Wagner (Sr., 6-2, 207)  
CB: L. Gibbons (Jr., 5-10, 171)\* A. Matthews (Fr., 5-9, 177)  
CB: D. Moronkola (Sr., 5-9, 194)\* J. Hunsaker (So., 5-9, 175)  
FS: L. Thompson (So., 6-1, 204) B. Newman (Fr., 5-10, 196)  
SS: E. Riley (Sr., 6-2, 217) T. Hollimon (Jr., 5-11, 195)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: R. Lindell (Jr., 6-3, 245)\* N. Lambert (Fr., 5-10, 183)  
P: K. Anderson (Jr., 6-0, 199) R. Lindell (Jr., 6-3, 245)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• The Cougars first win in 1998 will give Mike Price an even 100 for his career.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.wsu.edu/athletic.com



## PREDICTED STANDINGS

East

1. Florida
2. Tennessee
3. Georgia
4. Kentucky
5. South Carolina
6. Vanderbilt

South

1. LSU
2. Auburn
3. Mississippi
4. Arkansas
5. Alabama
6. Mississippi State

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

### Offensive

#### Player of the Year

Kevin Faulk, LSU

### Defensive

#### Player of the Year

Jevon Kearse, Florida

### Newcomer

Dennis Johnson, Kentucky

## 3 BIGGEST GAMES

### ► Sept. 19

LSU @ Auburn

### ► Sept. 19

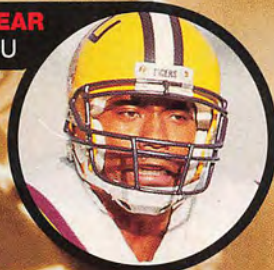
Florida @ Tennessee

### ► Oct. 10

LSU @ Florida

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Kevin Faulk, LSU



# SEC

## All-SEC Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: Tim Couch	6-5/223	Jr.	Kentucky
RB: Kevin Faulk	5-10/196	Sr.	LSU
RB: Jamal Lewis	6-1/234	So.	Tennessee
WR: Peerless Price	6-0/183	Sr.	Tennessee
WR: Craig Yeast	5-9/171	Sr.	Kentucky
TE: Rufus French	6-4/254	Jr.	Mississippi
OL: Jamar Nesbit	6-4/336	Sr.	South Carolina
OL: Zach Piller	6-5/326	Jr.	Florida
OL: Chris Samuels	6-6/290	Jr.	Alabama
OL: Todd McClure	6-2/280	Sr.	LSU
OL: Matt Stinchcomb	6-6/285	Sr.	Georgia
PK: Jeff Hall	6-0/182	Sr.	Tennessee

### [DEFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL: Ed Chester	6-4/284	Sr.	Florida
DL: Chris Hood	6-3/280	Sr.	Alabama
DL: Melvin Bradley	6-2/253	Sr.	Arkansas
DL: Jim Brumbaugh	6-1/286	Sr.	Auburn
LB: Jevon Kearse	6-5/250	Jr.	Florida
LB: Johnny Rutledge	6-2/256	Sr.	Florida
LB: Al Wilson	6-0/226	Sr.	Tennessee
DB: Fernando Bryant	6-0/180	Sr.	Alabama
DB: Champ Bailey	6-1/184	Jr.	Georgia
DB: Mark Roman	6-0/185	Jr.	LSU
DB: Arturo Freeman	6-1/190	Sr.	South Carolina
P: Jeff Walker	6-0/205	Jr.	Mississippi St.

► Florida  
linebacker  
Jevon Kearse  
is just one of  
the many  
impact  
defensive  
players in a  
Gators  
uniform this  
year.





JEVON KEARSE-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Significant (and rapid) improvement from a youthful receiving corps.
- Better, more consistent pass protection.
- Stability rather than controversy at quarterback.

The University of Florida will open the 1998 season in an unfamiliar position—without a Southeastern Conference championship to defend for the first time in five years.

Five years!

The last (and only) team to enjoy such a run in the nation's most rabid league was Alabama, which rolled to SEC crowns from 1971-75. Florida's crack at Paul "Bear" Bryant's five consecutive titles was thwarted last season despite wins against Tennessee and Auburn, the two participants in the '98 SEC Championship game, won by the Volunteers. That's because the Gators fell prey to a pair of teams, LSU and Georgia, that entered the year a combined 0-14 against Florida coach Steve Spurrier. "It was a good year, not a great year," Spurrier said. "Can't have a great year without a championship."

Not at Florida, and that's where the theme for '98 begins. With a defense that will rival any in the country, the Gators will be more than able to resume their place among the SEC's elite. But unless Spurrier can revive the passing game that vanished in midseason, a task made more difficult by wideout Jacquez Green's early departure for the NFL, another championship is not a given.

## OFFENSE

Quarterback is wide open, especially after Jesse Palmer clearly outplayed Doug Johnson, the incumbent starter, in UF's spring game. "It's definitely a fierce competition," Palmer said. "We're not the best of friends, but you can't hate a guy for beating you out, either." Johnson had a poor spring performance, and underwent shoulder surgery in May. Though he is expected to return in '98, it is unclear whether he'll be the starter or the backup.

The chosen QB will play behind a deep and seasoned offensive line, led by right tack-

le Zach Piller. In the backfield, Terry Jackson, who blew out his knee in the fourth game of '97, returns at tailback; in '95-'96 he gained 1,168 yards and 14 touchdowns. The biggest question mark for Florida lies at receiver, where Travis McGriff (24 catches, 3 TDs) is the only returnee with any experience to speak of, and it's not much.

## DEFENSE

Defensive coordinator Bob Stoops will commandeer an awesome and downright frightening display of strength, speed and athleticism this season, particularly with the front seven.

Tackle and All-American candidate Ed Chester has magnificent quickness that is offset beautifully by Reggie McGrew's strength. At the ends, Willie Cohens and Tim Beauchamp begin their third season as starters.

Johnny Rutledge was a Butkus Award candidate at outside linebacker last season, but he'll slide inside this fall to make room

for playmakers Mike Peterson and superfreak Jevon Kearse (at 6-5, 250 pounds, he's a top five NFL pick in waiting). With the exception of Kearse, maybe the best of the bunch, this is the same front seven that started in UF's 52-20 obliteration of Florida State in the 1996 national-championship Sugar Bowl.

The secondary loses starting cornerbacks Fred Weary and Elijah Williams, but half that void will be filled by moving strong safety Tony George, a former corner, to one spot. Senior free safety Teako Brown had six interceptions last year, while strong safety Rod Graddy played nothing like a freshman in considerable late-season action.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Collins Cooper needs to find more consistency after making just 6 of 11 field goal tries, and missing six of 54 PATs. Robby Stevenson has a career 40.7-yard average, but has a maddening knack for booming touchbacks when pooch kicks are in order. Incoming freshman David Wasielewski could push both players.

## RECRUITING

Analysts rated the Gators' class second only to Georgia in the SEC. Florida's biggest killings were at running back and defensive back, two prime areas of need. Parade All-American Earnest Graham and Mississippi Player of the Year Robert Gillespie could both see time in the backfield this season. The best prospect in the secondary is Atlanta cornerback Robert Cromartie.

By Chris Harry

## FLORIDA Facts

**Coach:** Steve Spurrier, 9th year, 83-16-1; 103-29-2 overall '97 Record: 10-2 (6-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Florida Field, Gainesville, Fla. (83,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (6 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Jacquez Green, WR (1st-team All-America); Fred Taylor, RB (1st-team All-SEC); Mike Moten, DT (1st-team All-SEC); Fred Weary, CB (1st-team All-SEC); Mo Collins, OL

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** D. Johnson, Jr., 148-269-2,023 yards, 21 TDs, 12 INTs

**Rushing:** Bo Carroll, So., 42 carries, 317 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Travis McGriff, Jr., 24, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** McGriff, Jr., 363

**Tackles:** Johnny Rutledge, Sr., 67

**Sacks:** Jevon Kearse, Jr., 6.5

**Interceptions:** Teako Brown, Sr., 6

**Punting:** Robby Stevenson, Sr., 41.4 avg.

**Kicking:** Collins Cooper, Sr., 6-11 FGs (long 40), 48-54 PATs

**Scoring:** Cooper, 66 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 THE CITADEL  
9/12 NELOUISIANA  
9/19 @ Tennessee  
9/26 KENTUCKY  
10/3 @ Alabama  
10/10 LSU  
10/17 AUBURN  
10/31 GEORGIA\*  
11/7 @ Vanderbilt  
11/14 S. CAROLINA  
11/21 @ Florida State

\*at Jacksonville

## 1997 RESULTS

SOUTHERN MISS; W, 21-6  
C. MICHIGAN; W, 82-6  
TENNESSEE; W, 33-20  
@ Kentucky; W, 55-28  
ARKANSAS; W, 56-7  
@ LSU; L, 28-21  
@ Auburn; W, 24-10  
vs. Georgia; L, 37-17\*  
VANDERBILT; W, 20-7  
@ S. Carolina; W, 48-21  
FLORIDA ST.; W, 32-29  
vs. Penn State; W, 21-6\*\*

\*at Jacksonville  
\*\*Citrus Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

QB: D. Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 215)\* J. Palmer (So., 6-2, 226)  
RB: T. Jackson (Sr., 6-0, 218) E. McCaslin (Jr., 6-2, 217)  
FB: B. Frazier (So., 5-11, 233)\* L. Farmer (Fr., 6-0, 239)  
WR: T. McGriff (Sr., 5-8, 180) D. Jackson (So., 6-0, 197)  
WR: N. Karim (Sr., 5-11, 190) T. Taylor (So., 6-1, 192)  
TE: E. Kinney (Jr., 6-6, 270)\* D. Edge (So., 6-6, 236)  
LT: Z. Piller (Jr., 6-6, 326)\* B. Brown (Fr., 6-5, 294)  
LG: B. Kalich (Jr., 6-3, 303)\* P. Browning (Jr., 6-4, 238)  
C: C. Yarbrough (Jr., 6-2, 296) T. Hilliard (Fr., 6-3, 281)  
RG: C. Blackshear (Jr., 6-3, 266)\* Z. Zedalis (So., 6-3, 296)  
RT: C. Carlisle (Jr., 6-6, 294) K. Walker (Fr., 6-5, 300)

## DEFENSE

DE: T. Beauchamp (Sr., 6-2, 260)\* B. Gurley (So., 6-2, 263)  
DT: E. Chester (Sr., 6-4, 284)\* D. Chambers (So., 6-4, 289)  
DT: R. McGrew (Jr., 6-2, 302)\* G. Warren (Fr., 6-4, 304)  
DE: W. Cohens (Sr., 6-3, 269)\* A. Mitchell (Jr., 6-5, 256)  
LB: J. Kearse (Jr., 6-5, 250)\* A. Brown (Fr., 6-3, 245)  
LB: J. Rutledge (Sr., 6-2, 256)\* T. Sims (So., 6-0, 236)  
LB: M. Peterson (Sr., 6-2, 224)\* D. Owens (So., 5-10, 223)  
CB: T. George (Sr., 6-0, 199)\* D. Lewis (Jr., 6-0, 201)  
CB: D. Pollard (Jr., 5-8, 179) C. Warren (So., 5-9, 182)  
FS: T. Brown (Sr., 5-11, 197)\* R. Davis (Jr., 6-0, 197)  
SS: R. Graddy (So., 6-1, 203) M. Manuel (Fr., 6-0, 197)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: C. Cooper (Sr., 5-10, 187)\* D. Wasielewski (Fr., 5-11, 225)  
P: R. Stevenson (Sr., 6-1, 175)\* J. Korn (Jr., 5-9, 195)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• The Gators take a 21-game home winning streak into the '98 season and need only three wins to break the school record of 23 set from 1990-93.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.uaa.ufl.edu



# GEORGIA Facts

**Coach:** Jim Donnan, 3rd year, 15-8; 79-29 overall  
**'97 record:** 10-2 (6-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Sanford Stadium, Athens, Ga.  
 (86,117; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 10 (4 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Hines Ward, WR (1st-team All-SEC); Robert Edwards, TB (2nd-team All-SEC); Greg Bright, LB (2nd-team All-SEC); Mike Bobo, QB; Brad Stafford, C; Brandon Tolbert, LB; Ronald Bailey, CB; Dax Langley, P

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Mike Usry, So., 4-7-54 yards, 1 TD

**Rushing:** Olandis Gary, Sr., 66 carries, 381 yards, 7 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Tony Small, Sr., 26, 1 TD

**Receiving (Yards):** Small, 362

**Tackles:** Orantes Grant, Jr., 81

**Sacks:** Grant, 2.5

**Interceptions:** Kirby Smart, Sr., 6

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Hap Hines, Jr., 7-12 FGs, 30-33 PATs

**Scoring:** Hines, 51

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 KENT STATE  
 9/12 @ S. Carolina  
 9/19 WYOMING  
 10/3 @ LSU  
 10/10 TENNESSEE  
 10/17 VANDERBILT  
 10/24 @ Kentucky  
 10/31 @ Florida  
 11/14 @ Auburn  
 11/21 MISSISSIPPI  
 11/28 GEORGIA TECH

## 1997 RESULTS

ARKANSAS ST.; W, 38-7  
 S. CAROLINA; W, 31-15  
 NE LOUISIANA; W, 42-3  
 MISSISSIPPI ST.; W, 47-0  
 @ Tennessee; L, 38-13  
 @ Vanderbilt; W, 34-13  
 KENTUCKY; W, 23-13  
 @ Florida; W, 37-17  
 AUBURN; L, 45-34  
 @ Ole Miss; W, 21-14  
 @ Georgia Tech; W, 27-24  
 vs. Wisconsin; W, 33-6\*

\*Outback Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

QB: J. England (Jr., 6-1, 206) M. Usry (So., 6-4, 213)  
 RB: O. Gary (Sr., 5-11, 216)\* R. Bradley (Sr., 5-9, 217)  
 RB: P. Pass (Jr., 5-11, 209) B. Millican (So., 5-11, 193)  
 WR: T. Small (Sr., 6-2, 215) T. Parker (So., 5-9, 156)  
 WR: M. Greer (So., 5-10, 173) L. Mitchell (Fr., 6-1, 196)  
 TE: L. Brown (Sr., 6-5, 260)\* J. Wiggins (Sr., 6-2, 260)  
 LT: M. Stinchcomb (Sr., 6-6, 285)\* K. Williams (Jr., 6-5, 295)  
 LG: S. Herndon (Jr., 6-4, 295) B. Register (So., 6-5, 266)  
 C: M. Luckie (Jr., 6-1, 278) J. Kerr (Fr., 6-3, 242)  
 RG: J. Jennings (So., 6-4, 310) R. Stargill (So., 6-2, 285)  
 RT: C. Terry (Sr., 6-5, 280)\* B. Pate (So., 6-5, 277)

## DEFENSE

DE: P. Snellings (Sr., 6-5, 273) M. Stroud (So., 6-6, 298)  
 DT: B. Miller (Jr., 6-1, 302) R. Seymour (So., 6-6, 286)  
 NG: E. Leroy (Sr., 6-2, 304)\* D. Evans (So., 6-4, 270)  
 DE: A. Cochran (Sr., 6-4, 275)\* R. Robick (Sr., 6-4, 254)  
 LB: D. Luckie (Jr., 6-1, 225) C. McGill (Jr., 6-4, 243)  
 LB: A. Hollingshed (So., 6-3, 227) M. Luckie (Jr., 6-0, 230)  
 LB: O. Grant (Jr., 6-1, 215)\* R. Arnaud (Jr., 5-11, 200)  
 CB: C. Bailey (Jr., 6-1, 184)\* Q. Davis (Jr., 5-11, 181)  
 CB: J. Harris (Jr., 6-0, 181) C. Robinson (So., 5-11, 185)  
 SS: E. Chambers (Jr., 6-1, 200) W. Atrice (Jr., 6-0, 193)  
 FS: K. Smart (Sr., 5-10, 183)\* L. Mann (Jr., 6-2, 189)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: H. Hines (Jr., 5-8, 179)\* C. Holleman (Jr., 5-11, 171)  
 P: J. England (Jr., 6-1, 206) H. Hines (Jr., 5-8, 179)  
 \* Denotes returning starter

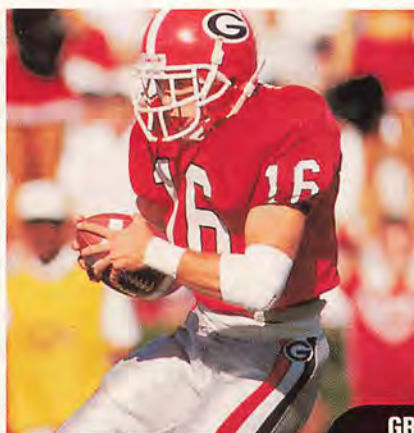
## MILESTONE

•If the Bulldogs are to challenge in the SEC East, they'd better beat Tennessee—something they've not done since 1988 (0-7).

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.sports.uga.edu

# G Georgia



KIRBY SMART-FS

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Settle on a quarterback to replace Bobo.
- Take advantage of a weak early schedule to build for back-to-back games at Florida and Auburn.
- Forget the preseason hype and just play.

After finishing 5-6 in his first season, Jim Donnan's 'Dogs rolled to a 10-2 mark last year.

They were the first Georgia team to win more than six games in five years, and included in their wins was a victory over defending champion Florida. Now Georgia's showing no signs of reverting back to the bad old days.

Even with quarterback Mike Bobo and six other offensive starters departed, Donnan is expecting big things from his 1998 squad.

"I'm confident that we'll field an extremely talented and athletic team," Donnan said. "We have some holes to fill, but I feel good about the athletes we have to plug into those holes." If Donnan is correct, the 'Dogs may have their day at the top of the SEC.

## OFFENSE

In addition to Bobo, running back Robert Edwards and wide receiver Hines Ward have also departed. Jon England and Mike Usry were the top candidates for quarterback in the spring, although neither has much experience to speak of, as Bobo rarely needed relief over the past two seasons. A wildcard will be Quincy Carter, a 6-4, 220-pound former Parade All-American who has been playing baseball in the Chicago Cubs organization for the past two years and was granted a release from the exclusivity clause in his contract. Although he hasn't played football since high school, Carter has monster skills and could very well win the job. "I'm confident we'll develop a quality signal caller to lead the offense," Donnan said.

Tony Small, who had 26 catches for 362 yards, and Michael Greer are dependable wideouts and will take some pressure off the eventual quarterback. Senior tight ends Lary Brown and Jermaine Wiggins also return.

Edwards' 830 yards will be difficult to re-

place, but the Bulldogs have some experienced players waiting to step in. Olandis Gary and Patrick Pass, in addition to being nimble runners, also have good hands out of the backfield, giving Donnan yet another weapon in the Georgia offensive arsenal.

## DEFENSE

Defensive end Paul Snellings, who has started 22 games in his Georgia career, leads an experienced unit up front. Antonio Cochran will be opposite Snelling at the other end, and Emarlos Leroy returns at nose guard. Who will play opposite Leroy remains a question mark, with junior Brandon Miller and sophomores Richard Seymour and Marcus Stroud competing.

At linebacker the return of Orantes Grant, the Bulldogs' second-leading tackler, will temper the losses of Greg Bright and Brandon Tolbert. A quartet of players, including twin brothers Dustin and Mike Luckie, will challenge for playing time.

The secondary is anchored by Champ Bailey, an All-SEC performer who might be the best Bulldog at the position since Terry Hoage in the early 1980s. Bailey is extremely versatile and also has seen playing time at wide receiver and on special teams as a kickoff returner. Also back is senior free safety Kirby Smart, who was a second-team All-SEC selection.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Hap Hines is back again as the Bulldogs' kicker, though he'll be pushed by junior walk-on Chad Holleman following an inconsistent 1997. There isn't a definite replacement for punter Dax Langley. England got some work at punter during spring drills, but if he fails to impress it's not clear who would take over.

## RECRUITING

First Donnan beat Florida to quiet the Gators' championship hopes. Then he went into Steve Spurrier's backyard and signed linebacker William Witherspoon from Panama City, Fla., the state's top linebacker, to go 2-for-2. Highly regarded tailback Jasper Sanks re-signed with the Bulldogs after spending a year at Fork Union Academy. Sanks' Fort Union teammate, defensive lineman Tyrone Robertson, originally signed with Virginia Tech but switched to Georgia after a season at the prep school. Other top signees include defensive backs Tim Wansley and Terrence Edwards and linemen David Jacobs and George Foster.

By Jonathan Dalton





# Kentucky



JEFF SNEDEGAR-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Stick to last year's offensive game plan.
- Must improve on defense.
- See above.

Hal Mumme's arrival in the Bluegrass state brought Kentucky an offense. Now all the second-year coach has to do is locate a defense.

The 45-year-old Mumme migrated north from Division II Valdosta State in Georgia and immediately delivered a potent booster shot to the storied basketball school's moribund football program. He executed his plan by doing two things: 1) Putting the ball in the hands of sophomore quarterback Tim Couch, and 2) Telling him to throw it.

With Couch at the controls, the Cats ranked second in the nation in passing offense (365.4 yards per game), third in scoring offense (31.6 points per game) and sixth in total offense (474 yards per game). Kentucky, a perennial non-starter when it came to offense, broke or tied 15 SEC and 51 school records on that side of the ball.

The other side of the ball was, well, the other side. In the 12-team SEC, the Cats ranked 12th in total defense (392.3 yards per game), rushing defense (170.8), pass efficiency defense (a 140.59 rating), and scoring defense (32.9 points per game). "We need to get better on defense," Mumme said. "But considering what we had last year, I thought our coaches and players did a good job."

## OFFENSE

A super sophomore season under his utility belt, superhero (inside the commonwealth anyway) Couch will gear up for a Heisman run as a junior. Last year, the 6-5, 223-pounder, in his first full year as a starter, threw for 3,884 yards and 37 touchdowns.

Craig Yeast, Couch's favorite target, returns after catching 73 balls for 873 yards and 10 scores last year. Anthony White, who caught 59 balls out of the backfield and rushed for 732 yards, is also back and will be joined by Derek Homer, who came on strong as the season progressed. Tight end Jimmy

Haley, who missed most of last year with a foot injury, should come back healthy.

Four starters return on the offensive line, including three-year starter Jonas Liening at tackle and two-year starters Jason Watts at center and Kris Comstock at tackle. John Schlaman, an All-SEC choice at right guard, will be missed, but Jeremy Streck, a top back-up last year, should move into the starting role.

## DEFENSE

Defensive coordinator Mike Major did a better job a year ago than the stats show, weaving a thin roster into a unit good enough to help the Cats to five victories. The hope is that a year in Major's 4-3, plus added depth and speed from a freshman class top-heavy with defenders, will spark immediate improvement.

Linebacker Jeff Snedegar, a junior, is the best of the bunch.

The 6-2, 225-pounder played most of last year with a bad shoulder, yet led the team in tackles with 97. A move to middle linebacker is on his fall expectations list after coming off shoulder surgery. Lee Wesley also returns as a starting outside linebacker. The secondary welcomes back Willie Gary, who started all 11 games at free safety as a true freshman last year, as well as cornerbacks Jeremy Bowie and Eric Kelly.

Although spirited tackles Marvin Major and Mark Jacobs are back for their senior seasons, lack of speed along the defensive line is still a concern. Major will need to find a pair of ends, and the hope is that converted tackle Matt Layow, at just 238 pounds, has the quickness to make some noise coming from the outside.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Jimmy Carter added a yard to his punt average, upping it to 40.2. Seth Hanson won the place-kicking duties midway through his freshman season and should be stronger this year. Mumme isn't big on field goals, however. The Cats tried just eight all year, hitting five.

## RECRUITING

Defensive end Dennis Johnson, ranked by many as the nation's top defensive prospect, cast his lot with the school 40 minutes from his home. Johnson, who wore No. 56 in high school, could be used as a Lawrence Taylor-type rush end. Tight end Bobby Blizzard, a teammate of Ron Curry's at Hampton, Va., could make an impact on offense. Grades, however, could hold the key to the class, with many of the better signees sitting on the academic bubble.

By John Clay

## KENTUCKY Facts

**Coach:** Hal Mumme, 2nd year, 5-6; 70-33-1 overall

**'97 record:** 5-6 (2-6 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Commonwealth Stadium, Lexington, Ky. (55,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 16 (9 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** John Schlaman, OG (1st-team All-SEC); Tremayne Martin, SS (2nd-team All-SEC); Kevin Coleman, WR; Kio Sanford, WR

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Tim Couch, Jr., 363-547-3,884 yards, 37 TDs, 19 INTs

**Rushing:** Anthony White, Jr., 129 carries, 723 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Craig Yeast, Sr., 73, 10 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Yeast, 873

**Tackles:** Jeff Snedegar, Jr., 97

**Sacks:** Robert Jones, Sr., 6

**Interceptions:** Snedegar, 2

**Punting:** Jimmy Carter, Sr., 40.2 avg.

**Kicking:** Seth Hanson, So., 4-7 FGs (long 30), 30-31 PATs

**Scoring:** Yeast, 72

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Louisville  
9/12 E. KENTUCKY  
9/19 INDIANA  
9/26 @ Florida  
10/3 @ Arkansas  
10/10 S. CAROLINA  
10/17 @ LSU  
10/24 GEORGIA  
10/27 MISSISSIPPI ST.  
10/14 VANDERBILT  
10/21 @ Tennessee

## 1997 RESULTS

LOUISVILLE; W, 38-24  
@ Mississippi St.; L, 35-27  
@ Indiana; W, 49-7  
FLORIDA; L, 55-28  
ALABAMA; W, 40-34  
@ South Carolina; L, 38-24  
NE LOUISIANA; W, 49-14  
@ Georgia; L, 23-13  
LSU; L, 63-28  
@ Vanderbilt; W, 21-10  
TENNESSEE; L, 59-31

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: T. Couch (Jr., 6-5, 223)\* M. Mumme (Sr., 6-2, 162)  
RB: A. White (Jr., 6-1, 192)\* A. Herman (So., 5-10, 180)  
RB: D. Homer (So., 5-11, 195)\* A.J. Simon (Jr., 5-11, 226)  
WR: C. Yeast (Sr., 5-9, 171)\* G. Davis (So., 6-2, 196)  
WR: L. Mickelsen (Sr., 6-3, 170) J. Robinson (Jr., 6-3, 196)  
TE: J. Haley (Jr., 6-3, 236)\* J. Whalen (Jr., 6-4, 219)  
LT: J. Liening (Sr., 6-8, 307)\* M. Brown (Fr., 6-5, 304)  
LG: J. Streck (Sr., 6-5, 327) N. DeVaughn (Fr., 6-5, 318)  
C: J. Watts (Sr., 6-3, 277)\* A. Daniel (So., 6-3, 270)  
RG: M. Webster (Sr., 6-6, 281)\* O. Smith (Jr., 6-3, 291)  
RT: K. Comstock (Sr., 6-8, 314)\* D. Berringer (Sr., 6-4, 290)

### DEFENSE

DE: M. Layow (So., 6-3, 238) W. Childs (So., 6-2, 240)  
DT: M. Jacobs (Sr., 6-3, 280)\* G. Crowe (Jr., 6-3, 278)  
DT: M. Major (Sr., 6-3, 280)\* G. Massey (Jr., 6-3, 278)  
DE: R. Jones (Sr., 6-3, 230) G. Smith (So., 6-1, 233)  
LB: T. Neptune (So., 6-2, 210) D. Johnson (Fr., 6-7, 256)  
LB: J. Snedegar (Jr., 6-2, 225)\* J. Rader (So., 6-5, 232)  
LB: L. Wesley (Jr., 6-0, 208)\* M. McCree (So., 6-0, 197)  
CB: E. Kelly (So., 5-11, 189) A. Hayslip (So., 5-10, 182)  
CB: J. Bowie (So., 5-10, 180) M. Love (Sr., 5-10, 171)  
SS: J. Zurcher (Sr., 6-0, 198) K. Grant (So., 6-0, 204)  
FS: W. Gary (So., 5-10, 187)\* S. Walters (Sr., 6-0, 191)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: S. Hanson (So., 6-2, 192)\* M. Samuel (So., 5-10, 164)  
P: J. Carter (Sr., 6-0, 178)\* A. Smith (Jr., 6-3, 214)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• QB Tim Couch broke or tied 17 school and 10 SEC records in 1997.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.ukathletics.com



## S. CAROLINA Facts

**Coach:** Brad Scott, 5th year, 22-22-1

**'97 record:** 5-6 (3-5 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Williams-Brice Stadium, Columbia, S.C. (80,250; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Henry Taylor, DT (2nd-team All-SEC); Ben Washington, SS; Paul Beckwith, C

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Anthony Wright, Sr., 139-252-1,685 yards, 18 TDs, 5 INTs

**Rushing:** Troy Hambrick, Jr., 604 yards

**Receiving (Catches):** Jermale Kelly, So., 43, 10 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Kelly, 618

**Tackles:** Arturo Freeman, Sr., 92

**Sacks:** John Abraham, Jr., 6

**Interceptions:** Freeman, 6

**Punting:** Courtney Leavitt, Jr., 40.9 avg.

**Kicking:** Steve Florio, Sr., 9-13 FGs (long 44), 27-30 PATs

**Scoring:** Kelly, 60 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 BALL STATE  
9/12 GEORGIA  
9/19 MARSHALL  
9/26 MISSISSIPPI ST.  
10/3 @ Mississippi  
10/10 @ Kentucky  
10/17 ARKANSAS  
10/24 @ Vanderbilt  
10/31 TENNESSEE  
11/14 @ Florida  
11/21 @ Clemson

### 1997 RESULTS

C. FLORIDA; W, 33-31  
@ Georgia; L, 31-15  
@ East Carolina; W, 26-0  
@ Mississippi St.; W, 37-17  
AUBURN; L, 23-6  
KENTUCKY; W, 38-24  
@ Arkansas; W, 39-13  
VANDERBILT; W, 35-3  
@ Tennessee; L, 22-7  
FLORIDA; L, 48-21  
CLEMSON; L, 47-21

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

QB: A. Wright (Sr., 6-2, 188)\* V. Penn (So., 6-1, 180)  
RB: T. Hambrick (Jr., 6-0, 221)\* B. Williams (Jr., 5-11, 211)\*  
FB: S. Mixon (Jr., 5-11, 218)\* J. Bush (Jr., 5-11, 248)  
WR: J. Kelly (So., 6-2, 193)\* D. Norman (So., 6-0, 186)  
WR: Z. Davis (Sr., 6-1, 192)\* K. Hood (Jr., 6-1, 195)  
TE: T. Pennington (Jr., 6-5, 242) J. Levandusky (Jr., 6-4, 231)  
LT: J. Nesbit (Sr., 6-5, 320)\* T. Irvin (Fr., 6-5, 282)  
LG: P. Jones (Fr., 6-2, 272) K. Rivers (Fr., 6-4, 290)  
C: S. Browne (So., 6-2, 258) J. Nesbit (Sr., 6-5, 320)  
RG: J. Cox (Fr., 6-5, 315) J. Pietrzak (So., 6-4, 260)  
RT: A. Spearman (Sr., 6-4, 298)\* M. Paige (Fr., 6-5, 320)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Abraham (Jr., 6-4, 247)\* J. Stamper (Fr., 6-4, 245)  
DT: E. Rochester (Jr., 6-0, 260) B. Wilson (Sr., 6-3, 265)  
DT: C. Caldwell (Jr., 6-1, 268) A. Overstreet (So., 6-2, 251)  
DE: M. Marsters (Jr., 6-4, 231)\* T. Hill (Jr., 6-2, 218)  
LB: C. Atkins (Jr., 6-1, 230)\* D. Hutcherson (Fr., 6-0, 231)  
LB: A. Offord (Fr., 6-2, 200) S. Wadley (Fr., 6-1, 228)  
LB: W. Offord (Fr., 6-2, 200) B. Koop (Sr., 6-0, 218)  
CB: H. Torrance (Sr., 6-0, 215)\* K. Sullivan (Sr., 5-8, 161)  
CB: K. Brooks (Sr., 5-9, 161)\* A. Goodman (Fr., 5-10, 176)  
SS: R. Green (Jr., 6-3, 186) M. Henderson (Sr., 5-10, 197)  
FS: A. Freeman (Sr., 6-1, 190)\* O. Cox (Fr., 6-0, 170)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: S. Florio (Sr., 5-9, 193)\* C. Leavitt (Jr., 5-11, 210)  
P: C. Leavitt (Jr., 5-11, 210)\* S. Florio (Sr., 5-9, 193)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

•Senior wide receiver Zola Davis needs 54 receptions—he caught 58 as a freshman in 1995—to pass Sterling Sharpe (169 catches from 1984-87) as South Carolina's career reception leader.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.uscsports.com



# South Carolina



ANTHONY WRIGHT-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- A healthy return from knee surgery for quarterback Anthony Wright.
- Development of an inexperienced offensive line.
- Better run defense.

South Carolina and Florida were tied, 14-14, late in the third quarter. The Gators outscored the Gamecocks, 34-7, the rest of the way. The following week, South Carolina led rival Clemson, 14-3, late in the second quarter. The Tigers outscored the Gamecocks, 44-7, the rest of the way. Both games were at home. They were also the last two of the season.

Obviously, this wasn't the way South Carolina coach Brad Scott wanted to exit the 1997 season. And so he's made some changes—John Eason (offensive coordinator) and John Reaves (who called the plays) are out, and former Baylor head coach Chuck Reedy (new offensive coordinator) and former Alabama assistant head coach Woody McCorvey (receivers) have been brought in.

Scott's teams have gone 22-22-1 in four years and have only one postseason berth to show for it—in his first season (1994). How much patience do Gamecocks officials have? We might just find out this season.

### OFFENSE

So much of where the Gamecocks are headed depends on the comeback of quarterback Anthony Wright from the torn knee ligament he suffered against Tennessee last season. The belief is that Wright should be ready for two-a-days, but if he isn't, then the job will go to either redshirt freshman Phil Petty or Vic Penn, who started the last two games.

Regardless of who's playing quarterback, the offensive philosophy is going to be different. Reedy, whose background is Baylor (conservative) by way of Clemson (ultra-conservative), will simplify things. The fast-break style Scott ran as offensive coordinator at Florida State hasn't worked, mostly because he doesn't have the number of athletes to do it effectively at Carolina. So look for ball-control and play-action passes. That should

mean lots of big tailback Troy Hambrick, situational calls for speedster Boo Williams and solid blocking by fullback Steve Mixon. Such an approach would benefit greatly from a better season out of left tackle Jamar Nesbit, who was decent last year but probably made first-team All-SEC more on reputation.

Outside, the Gamecocks have threats in senior Zola Davis and sophomore Jermale Kelly. Davis has been inconsistent since his 58-catch freshman season, but the skills are unquestioned. Kelly caught 43 passes for 618 yards and a team-high 10 TDs in his SEC All-Freshman debut.

### DEFENSE

So many of the Gamecocks' problems last year came when their defense wore down. Longer possessions on offense would be a huge help, especially with an undersized defensive line that averages just over 250 pounds per man. Errol Rochester (6-0, 260) dropped down to tackle from linebacker, but he's

smallish, too. End John Abraham is the most dangerous of the group and could break out into a big-time pass-rusher.

Corey Atkins returns to start at outside linebacker. Redshirt freshman Willie Offord, recruited as a strong safety, had a nice spring and projects opposite Atkins. Sophomore Andre Offord will duel classmate Marco Hutcherson and redshirt freshman Darion Hutcherson at middle linebacker.

All-SEC free safety Arturo Freeman led the team in tackles (92) and interceptions (6), and the senior will likely be on several preseason All-America lists. Junior Ray Green played a good bit in a reserve role to departed all-star Ben Washington. Seniors Kevin Brooks and Homer Torrance have some starting experience between them.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Steve Florio finished his junior year 9 for 13 on field-goal attempts, including 3 for 4 from 40-49 yards, and 27 of 30 on extra-point tries. Courtney Leavitt enters his third season as Carolina's punter after averaging 40.7 per kick as a sophomore.

### RECRUITING

Tight end Jim Levandusky, by way of Fresno (Calif.) CC, arrived in January and climbed to second on the depth chart. Two other JUCO products, Kevin Johnson and Teddy Salters, could work their way into the defensive line. Linebacker Gerald Robinson will get a look as a freshman, while heralded quarterback Keith Madkins will likely redshirt.

By Chris Harry





# Tennessee



TEE MARTIN-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Leadership and consistency must emerge from among the secondary.
- The running game starts solid as the passing game gels under QB Martin.
- Find a way to get LB Wilson near the ball on every play.

Peyton Manning may have left, but football at Tennessee will go on. Leading the Volunteers is junior Tee Martin. Last season he attempted only 12 passes, but in one drive—on UT's final possession of the Orange Bowl, where he led the troops to a quick TD—he showed the possibility of life after Manning. Even with the loss of its best-ever quarterback and half of the defense, the Volunteers have annual talent which demands top ten ranking consideration. According to coach Phil Fulmer, "There are a number of underclassmen who can be exceptional players and leaders. They will need to step up along the way. With the challenge of our schedule, it's important for our players to know how they are going to be when things are going well and when things are not going so well."

## OFFENSE

Martin is a blend of skilled runner and studious passer. He'll benefit from the effectiveness of outstanding sophomore tailback Jamal Lewis, who finished the season with 1,364 yards, sixth all-time on the NCAA freshman list. At 6-1, 234, Lewis can run inside or outside and should be the centerpiece of the offense. Senior fullback Shawn Bryson is effective both as a blocker and receiver (29 receptions in '97).

A talented group of receivers will feel a marginal loss with the departure of Marcus Nash, who caught 13 TDs a year ago. Returning are split end Jermaine Copeland (58 catches, 732 yards, 9 TDs) and Peerless Price (48-698-6), both seniors. The program is high on redshirt freshman Eric Parker.

Four of the five who started on the offensive line in the Orange Bowl return. The one gone, however, is inspirational center Trey Teague, an All-SEC first-teamer. Ju-

nior Chad Clifton has started 21 of 24 career games at Tennessee and talented tackle Cozey Coleman, 6-5, 315, started the last six games of '97 as a true freshman.

## DEFENSE

At first glance, defensive end looks to be the most glaring weakness with the departures of Leonard Little, who terrorized opponents during his career on the outside and more recently inside as a backer, and Jonathan Brown, who registered 13.5 sacks. Senior Corey Terry started last season in Little's old spot and junior Shaun Ellis opposite him. There shouldn't be much of a drop-off in this area, and the tackle spots have experience and depth in Ron Green and Billy Ratliff, who's coming off neck and knee injuries.

The Volunteers' best defensive player is senior linebacker Al Wilson, who may switch from the outside to the inside so the team best benefits from his playmaking abilities in its 4-3. Wilson had only four fewer tackles than Little in one less game last year. Returning starter Raynoch

Thompson, a junior, registered four quarterback sacks and six other tackles for losses. The secondary was hardest hit by expired eligibility as three of the four were seniors. The lone returnee, junior corner Dwayne Goodrich, had four interceptions, one for a touchdown. The other cornerback spot will be hotly contested, as will both safety positions, although hard-hitting junior Fred White appears to have the edge on the strong side.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Jeff Hall returns for his senior season. He's a three-time All-SEC selection and enters the year ranked fourth on UT's scoring list. David Leaverton will be the new punter.

## RECRUITING

Tennessee is one of the big boys in the recruiting wars, and in '98 brought in a very good class. Defensive lineman John Henderson, 6-7, 280, was considered the best recruit from the state of Tennessee and was also looked at as a basketball player. Omari Hand, a defensive end/linebacker, comes from Tallahassee and will be effective with some weight gain (he played at 215 last year). Willie Miles is capable at either running back or in the secondary. Quarterback Joey Mathews comes in highly regarded, and the Vols also brought in Jermaine Kent, younger brother of Joey, UT's all-time leading receiver.

By Paul M. Johnson

## TENNESSEE Facts

**Coach:** Philip Fulmer, 7th year, 54-11

**'97 Record:** 11-2 (7-1 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Neyland Stadium, Knoxville, Tenn. (102,854; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 14 (8 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Peyton Manning, QB (1st-team All-American); Leonard Little, LB (2nd-team All-American); Marcus Nash, WR (1st-team All-SEC); Trey Teague, C (1st-team All-SEC); Jonathan Brown, DE (1st-team All-SEC); Terry Fair, DB (2nd-team All-SEC)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Tee Martin, Jr., 6-12-87 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT  
**Rushing:** Jamal Lewis, So., 232 carries, 1,364 yards, 7 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Jermaine Copeland, Sr., 58  
**Receiving (Yards):** Copeland, 732

**Tackles:** Al Wilson, Sr., 83

**Sacks:** Wilson, 5

**Interceptions:** Dwayne Goodrich, Jr., 4

**Punting:** David Leaverton, So., 36.4 avg.

**Kicking:** Jeff Hall, Sr., 16-22 FGs (long 49); 47-49 PATs

**Scoring:** Hall, 95 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Syracuse  
9/19 FLORIDA  
9/26 HOUSTON  
10/3 @ Auburn  
10/10 @ Georgia  
10/24 ALABAMA  
10/31 @ S. Carolina  
11/7 ALA.-BIRM.  
11/14 ARKANSAS  
11/21 KENTUCKY  
11/28 @ Vanderbilt

## 1997 RESULTS

TEXAS TECH; W, 52-17  
@ UCLA; W, 30-24  
@ Florida; L, 33-20  
MISSISSIPPI; W, 31-17  
GEORGIA; W, 38-13  
@ Alabama; W, 38-21  
SOUTH CAROLINA; W, 22-7  
S. MISSISSIPPI; W, 44-20  
@ Arkansas; W, 30-22  
@ Kentucky; W, 59-31  
VANDERBILT; W, 17-10  
vs. Auburn; W, 30-29\*  
vs. Nebraska; L, 42-17\*\*

\*SEC Championship  
\*\*Orange Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

QB: T. Martin (Jr., 6-3, 215)	B. Veazey (Fr., 6-2, 195)
RB: J. Lewis (So., 6-1, 234)*	T. Stephens (So., 5-9, 185)
FB: S. Bryson (Sr., 6-1, 220)*	W. Bartholomew (Fr., 6-0, 220)
WR: P. Price (Sr., 6-0, 183)*	D. Martin (So., 6-4, 210)
WR: J. Copeland (Sr., 6-2, 200)*	C. Wilson (So., 5-10, 165)
TE: E. Dingus (Jr., 6-3, 245)	A. Peebles (Sr., 6-3, 247)
LT: C. Clifton (Jr., 6-6, 315)*	J. Tucker (Jr., 6-4, 295)
LG: S. Riley (Jr., 6-3, 295)*	T. Champion (So., 6-4, 295)
C: D. Robinson (Sr., 6-3, 295)	B. Gooden (So., 6-3, 310)
RG: M. Hamilton (Sr., 6-3, 295)*	E. Massa (So., 6-3, 285)
RT: C. Coleman (So., 6-5, 315)*	J. Reado (Sr., 6-5, 300)

## DEFENSE

DE: S. Ellis (Jr., 6-4, 260)	D. Lloyd (So., 6-5, 235)
DT: D. Walker (Jr., 6-3, 281)	J. Coleman (Sr., 6-4, 242)
DT: B. Green (Sr., 6-1, 275)*	B. Ratliff (Jr., 6-3, 275)
DE: C. Terry (Sr., 6-3, 250)*	E. Butler (Fr., 6-3, 230)
LB: E. W. Moreland (So., 6-0, 210)	J. Hayden (So., 5-11, 215)
LB: A. Wilson (Sr., 6-0, 226)*	S. Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 217)
LB: B. Thompson (Jr., 6-3, 217)*	R. Alexander (Jr., 6-3, 220)
SS: F. White (Jr., 5-11, 185)	M. Allen (Jr., 6-0, 175)
FS: D. Grant (So., 6-3, 190)	G. Griffin (Jr., 6-1, 182)
CB: D. Goodrich (Jr., 6-0, 185)*	M. Fitzgerald (Fr., 5-9, 180)
CB: S. Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 175)	A. Lott (So., 5-11, 185)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Hall (Sr., 6-0, 182)*	R. Loudermilk (Jr., 6-2, 164)
P: D. Leaverton (So., 6-4, 210)	B. Hurst (Jr., 5-11, 170)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Running back Jamal Lewis' 1,364 yards rushing placed him sixth on the all-time NCAA freshman list.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.utsports.com



## VANDERBILT Facts

**Coach:** Woody Widenhofer, 2nd year, 3-8;  
15-39-1 overall  
**'97 Record:** 3-8 (0-8 conf.)  
**Stadium:** Vanderbilt Stadium, Nashville, Tenn.  
(41,600; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 14 (7 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Jamie Duncan, LB (1st-team All-SEC);  
Corey Chavous, DB (1st-team All-SEC); Carlton Hall, LB  
(2nd-team All-SEC); Antony Jordan, LB, Glenn Young, DE

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** None  
**Rushing:** Jared McGrath, So., 491 yards, 2 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Todd Yoder, Jr., 21, 2 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Tavarus Hogsans, Jr., 381  
**Tackles:** Ainsley Battles, Jr., 56  
**Sacks:** Battles, 1.5  
**Interceptions:** Rahim Batten, Sr., 3  
**Punting:** Joe Webb, So., 38.9 avg.  
**Kicking:** John Markham, So., 8-13 FGs (long 49), 10-13 PATs  
**Scoring:** Markham, 34 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Mississippi St.  
9/12 @ Alabama\*  
9/19 MISSISSIPPI  
10/3 @ TCU  
10/10 W. MICHIGAN  
10/17 @ Georgia  
10/24 S. CAROLINA  
10/31 DUKE  
11/7 FLORIDA  
11/14 @ Kentucky  
11/28 TENNESSEE  
\* in Birmingham, Ala.

### 1997 RESULTS

N. TEXAS; W, 29-12  
ALABAMA; L, 20-0  
TCU; W, 40-16  
@ Mississippi; L, 15-3  
LSU; L, 7-6  
@ N. Illinois; W, 17-7  
GEORGIA; L, 34-13  
@ S. Carolina; L, 35-3  
@ Florida; L, 20-7  
KENTUCKY; L, 21-10  
@ Tennessee; L, 17-10

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: H. Lewis (Jr., 6-2, 183)	G. Zolman (Fr., 6-4, 194)
RB: J. McGrath (So., 5-9, 193)*	R. Williams (Fr., 5-11, 200)
HB: T. Yoder (Jr., 6-4, 208)*	S. Daly (Fr., 6-1, 197)
WR: T. Hogsans (Jr., 5-10, 184)	A. Woods (So., 5-9, 168)
WB: A. Ditto (Fr., 5-11, 177)	Z. Winkler (Jr., 5-11, 178)
TE: E. Carson (So., 6-5, 250)*	O.J. Fleming (Sr., 6-4, 259)
LT: C. Condney (Sr., 6-6, 269)*	B. Gruber (So., 6-7, 290)
LG: M. Saltsman (Jr., 6-4, 284)*	D. Coppeans (Sr., 6-5, 293)
C: J. Barnett (Jr., 6-3, 259)*	R. McSwain (Fr., 6-1, 252)
RG: S. Wilson (Sr., 6-4, 294)	D. Rothenberger (So., 6-3, 295)
RT: R. Byndom (Jr., 6-4, 295)*	W. Oates (Fr., 6-5, 249)

#### DEFENSE

DE: A. Harvey (Sr., 6-3, 294)*	W. Conyers (Fr., 6-7, 247)
DT: I. Smith (Sr., 6-4, 270)	S. Trese (Fr., 6-4, 256)
NT: R. Aulds (So., 6-3, 245)*	J. Smith (Sr., 6-2, 302)
DE: D. Crosby (Fr., 6-4, 262)	R. Nicoll (So., 6-5, 266)
LB: M. Stewart (So., 6-4, 218)	C. Cook (Jr., 6-4, 236)
LB: J. Winborn (Fr., 6-0, 232)	D. Van Nort (Jr., 6-3, 211)
LB: L. Turner (Jr., 6-1, 234)	N. Morrow (Fr., 6-3, 230)
CB: J. Williams (So., 5-10, 187)	D. Koger (Sr., 5-8, 181)
CB: F. Vinson (Sr., 5-11, 178)*	D. Charley (Sr., 5-7, 176)
SS: A. Battles (Jr., 5-11, 193)*	J. Carter (Jr., 6-2, 215)
FS: R. Batten (Sr., 5-8, 191)*	J. Watkins (Jr., 6-4, 212)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Markham (So., 6-1, 207)*	B. Speakman (Jr., 5-11, 183)
P: J. Webb (So., 6-3, 196)*	B. Speakman Jr., 5-11, 183)

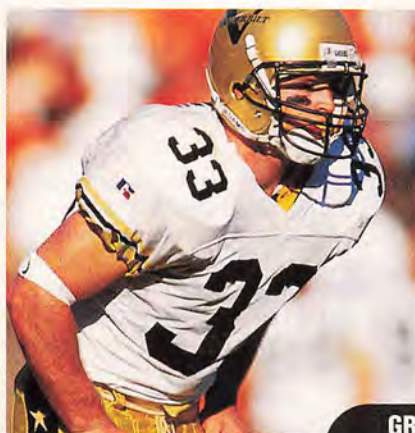
\* Denotes returning starter

#### MILESTONE

• The Commodores' 83 percent graduation rate puts them at the top of the SEC.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

[www.vanderbilt.edu/athletics.com](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/athletics.com)



JARED MCGRATH-RB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a quarterback who can put points on the board.
- Despite new faces, defense can't soften.
- Young players must contribute right away.

Last year was the first for Vanderbilt under Woody Widenhofer, and although the final record of 3-8 was a slight improvement over the consecutive 2-9 seasons posted under Widenhofer's predecessor, Rod Dowhower, the Commodores will be hard-pressed to equal last season's victory total in 1998.

The heart of last year's squad, the SEC's top-ranked defense, has been hit hard by graduation. Vandy has managed to throw a scare into some top teams over the past few years because of the defensive strategies employed by Widenhofer, first as defensive coordinator and then as head coach, that took advantage of his personnel. This year, while the schemes may be the same, the cast isn't—and that could add up to trouble.

On the other side of the ball the situation is, if anything, even more grim. Although they still had their troubles, the Commodores did show some improvement on offense last season. But now last year's senior starter at quarterback, Damian Allen, is gone, and with him went 57 percent of the total yards that Vandy gained from scrimmage.

#### OFFENSE

Replacing Allen is Widenhofer's first priority, and of the three returnees at the position—Hi Lewis, Duce Reeder and Greg Zolman—none has taken a snap in a game since arriving at Vanderbilt. "Hi Lewis had the best spring and is the leader of the pack right now," Widenhofer said.

Whoever wins the job will look to get the ball to Tavarus Hogsans, a big-play receiver. The tight ends caught only 15 passes last year, but sophomore Elliott Carson averaged 15.2 yards on his nine receptions and could become an important possession receiver. The decision to move Jimmy Williams, Vandy's top rusher (527 yards) and receiver (24 catch-

es) as a freshman, to the defensive backfield was made easier by the presence of Jared McGrath, who joined Williams on the SEC's All-Freshman team. McGrath, who finished up with a 97-yard effort in the season-ending loss at Tennessee, will be the featured back. He'll run behind a line that returns four starters and, according to Widenhofer, "has improved 100 percent."

#### DEFENSE

Six starters were lost, including the linebacking trio of Jamie Duncan, Carlton Hall and Antony Jordan, who were the three leading tacklers on last year's team. Lamont Turner is the top returnee but overall this unit has a long way to go before it can be as accomplished as its predecessors. First-team Freshman All-American Ryan Aulds returns at tackle, where he will be teamed with Ian Smith, who started three games before going down with a knee injury. On the outside, Alphonso Harvey will shift from tackle to left end.

The strength of this defense will be the secondary. "Williams has made the adjustment to cornerback very well," Widenhofer said. Opposite him will be Fred Vinson, who runs a sub-4.4 40 and has exceptional one-on-one cover abilities. At safety are the top two returning tacklers—Rahim Batten, who had 55 along with three interceptions from his free safety spot, and Ainsley Battles, the strong safety who finished with 56.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

John Markham won the placekicking job as a freshman but missed three PATs. Punter Joe Webb also won his job as a freshman and will look to improve on his 38.9 yards-per-kick average. Williams averaged a very solid 23.8 yards on kickoff returns, and Alvin Duke, another running back shifting to the secondary, will handle the punt returns.

#### RECRUITING

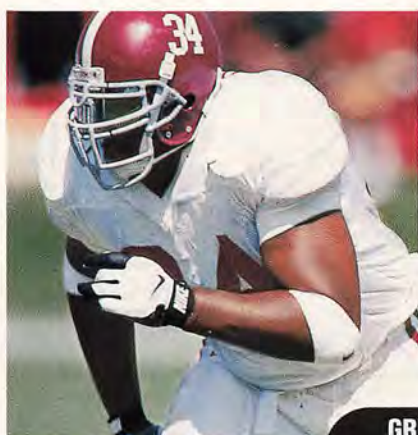
Three quarterbacks—Sean O'Connor of Hackensack, N.J., Justin Purkey of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and David Wallace of Brentwood, Tenn.—arrive in the fall, and with the quarterback position wide open, one of them could be the No. 1 before the season's over. Others who could see significant action include wideout Anthony Jones of Chattanooga, Tenn., the aptly named Rushen Jones, a running back from Memphis, Tenn., and linebacker Ryan Nungesser of San Marino, Calif., who Widenhofer believes "may be someone who can help us right away."

By Jonathan Tesser





# Alabama



CHRIS HOOD-DE

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Experienced defense must bounce back.
- Find a quarterback to replace Kitchens.
- Win early to keep Alabama faithful on the bandwagon.

At Alabama, the people's choice was not exactly a hit with the people. When Gene Stallings retired after the 1996 season, a 1992 national championship highlighting his accomplishments, the Alabama "family" rose in support of one man to succeed Stallings in the job—defensive coordinator Mike DuBose, an Alabama native and ex-Tide player who had cut his teeth under Bear Bryant. After first balking at the idea, athletic director Bob Bockrath gave the people what they wanted.

DuBose, however, did not. The Tide stumbled to a 4-7 record, its worst record in 40 years. Thus, DuBose has made some changes. Bruce Arians was shoved out as offensive coordinator, with offensive line coach Neil Callaway promoted to play-calling duties. The most notable staff addition, however, is quarterbacks coach Charlie Stubbs, a BYU grad who promises to open DuBose's conservative attack—if he can find a quarterback.

The defense should be solid with seven starters back. And DuBose does know defense. Or, according to disgruntled Tide fans, he did know.

## OFFENSE

Embattled Freddie Kitchens has finally graduated at quarterback, opening up a fight. Senior John David Phillips has a leg up in the experience category. "I feel like I'm at a new Alabama," he said in the spring. "It's fun." However, the 6-foot-5, 216-pounder might have to hold off a strong challenge from true freshman Tyler Watts, a 6-3, 205-pounder from Pelham, Ala., thought to be the school's best quarterback recruit in ages.

Shaun Alexander is the Tide's best running back, if he can stay healthy. After a pair of breakout games as a true freshman—291 yards and four touchdowns against LSU being his best effort—the Kentucky native rushed

for just 415 yards and three touchdowns last season while missing two games.

Michael Vaughn will be welcomed back with open arms at wide receiver. Vaughn missed the entire '97 season after undergoing preseason back surgery. He had topped the Tide with 39 catches for 702 yards and six touchdowns in '96. Vaughn will be joined by holdover Quincy Jackson, who caught 29 balls for 472 yards last year, including a five-catch, 119-yard game against Ole Miss. Tackle Chris Samuels leads the offensive line.

"No question, we're improving in the passing game," said DuBose. "We want to be a good offensive team whether we run 70 percent of the time or throw 70 percent of the time."

## DEFENSE

A sure sign that it was not the Tide's year was the free-fall of the traditionally stingy Alabama defense. With DuBose in the head coach's office instead of the defensive coordinator's cubicle, Bama plummeted from second to 11th in the conference in total defense.

Fernando Bryant, an All-American candidate at cornerback, is back to lead the hoped-for revival. Bryant intercepted three passes last year, returning one for a touchdown. He also had 10 pass deflections, two fumble recoveries, and was second in the SEC in kickoff returns. Kelvin Sigler, who had a team-leading 86 tackles, returns at free safety.

The defensive line never recovered from the early-season loss of All-SEC tackle Michael Myers, who had signed with an agent. It should be stronger this time around, thanks to senior end Chris Hood, a second-team All-SEC pick last year, and tackle Kenny Smith, who started the final three games as a true freshman a year ago.

Middle linebacker Travis Carroll is a budding star after starting in four games last year as a true freshman.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Daniel Pope is back for his senior season after averaging 43.1 yards per kick last year. Placekicker Brian Cunningham also returns, but DuBose may be looking for someone with a little more leg. Four different candidates attempted field goals last season.

## RECRUITING

Despite the 4-7 record (or maybe because of it—hey, there are openings for playing time here) the Tide received generally high marks for its recruiting. Watts and linebacker Kindal Moorehead from Memphis are considered the cream of the crop.

By John Clay

## ALABAMA Facts

**Coach:** Mike DuBose, 2nd year, 4-7

**'97 Record:** 4-7 (2-6 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (83,266; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 12 (3 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Deshaea Townsend, CB (2nd-team All-SEC); Rod Rutledge, TE (2nd-team All-SEC); Freddie Kitchens, QB; Chad Goss, WR; Curtis Alexander, RB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** John David Phillips, Sr., 1-3-4 yards, 1 TD

**Rushing:** Shaun Alexander, Jr., 90 carries, 415 yards, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Quincy Jackson, Sr., 29, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Jackson, 472

**Tackles:** Kelvin Sigler, Sr., 86

**Sacks:** Travis Smith, Sr., 5

**Interceptions:** Sigler, Fernando Bryant, 3

**Punting:** Daniel Pope, Sr., 43.1 avg.

**Kicking:** Brian Cunningham, Sr., 12-21 FGs (long 48), 14-17 PATs

**Scoring:** Cunningham, 50 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 BYU  
9/12 VANDERBILT\*  
9/26 @ Arkansas  
10/3 FLORIDA  
10/10 MISSISSIPPI  
10/17 E. CAROLINA  
10/24 @ Tennessee  
10/31 SOUTHERN MISS  
11/7 @ LSU  
11/14 @ Mississippi St.  
11/21 AUBURN\*

\*Birmingham, Ala.

## 1997 RESULTS

HOUSTON; W, 42-17  
@ Vanderbilt; W, 20-0  
ARKANSAS; L, 17-16  
SOUTHERN MISS; W, 27-14  
@ Kentucky; L, 40-34 (OT)  
TENNESSEE; L, 38-21  
@ Mississippi; W, 29-20  
LA. TECH; L, 26-20  
LSU; L, 27-0  
MISSISSIPPI ST.; L, 32-20  
@ Auburn; L, 18-17

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Phillips (Sr., 6-5, 216) A. Zow (Fr., 6-1, 210)  
RB: S. Alexander (Jr., 6-1, 205) A. Richard (So., 5-6, 172)  
FB: D. McClintock (So., 6-3, 261) M. Madden (Sr., 5-9, 216)  
WR: Q. Jackson (Sr., 6-1, 186) S. Buchanan (Jr., 6-2, 196)  
WR: C. Hall (Sr., 6-2, 198)\* M. Vaughn (Jr., 6-1, 205)  
TE: S. Draper (So., 6-4, 284) R. Crutchfield (Sr., 6-4, 243)  
LT: C. Samuels (Jr., 6-6, 296)\* M. Barfield (Fr., 6-5, 285)  
LG: J. McDonald (Jr., 6-6, 300) T. Whitmore (Jr., 6-5, 280)  
C: P. Hogan (So., 6-4, 266)\* B. Brodie (Sr., 6-3, 260)  
RG: G. Redmill (So., 6-6, 271) M. Moore (Jr., 6-4, 303)  
RT: W. Cuthbert (So., 6-6, 299) S. Spree (Sr., 6-7, 287)

### DEFENSE

DE: C. Hood (Sr., 6-3, 280)\* S. Williams (Fr., 6-5, 250)  
DT: K. Smith (So., 6-5, 290)\* S. Matthews (Fr., 6-6, 283)  
DT: J. Carter (Jr., 6-3, 321) C. Stennis (So., 6-2, 270)  
DE: C. Waggoner (Jr., 6-6, 232) B. Grimes (Jr., 6-5, 290)  
LB: S. Stanley (Sr., 6-3, 221)\* C. Horne (So., 6-0, 217)  
LB: T. Carroll (So., 6-4, 234)\* C. Edwards (Sr., 6-2, 245)  
LB: T. Smith (Sr., 6-0, 226)\* S. Harris (Sr., 6-1, 240)  
CB: F. Bryant (Sr., 6-0, 180)\* M. Feagin (Sr., 5-9, 180)  
CB: A. Hunter (Sr., 6-0, 180) K. Bailey (So., 5-10, 158)  
SS: T. Dixon (So., 6-3, 197) M. Spencer (So., 6-2, 190)  
FS: K. Sigler (Sr., 6-1, 286)\* W. Foust (Sr., 6-3, 217)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Cunningham (Sr., 5-9, 178)\* R. Pflugner (Jr., 5-10, 175)  
P: D. Pope (Sr., 6-1, 204)\* P. Morgan (Jr., 6-0, 182)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• The Nov. 21 matchup with Auburn marks the 50th anniversary of the series' debut.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.ua.edu.com



# ARKANSAS Facts

**Coach:** Houston Nutt, 1st year

**'97 record:** 4-7 (2-6 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Razorback Stadium, Fayetteville, Ark. (50,019; artificial); War Memorial Stadium, Little Rock, Ark. (53,727; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 18 (9 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Anthony Eubanks, SE; Marcus Campbell, CB; Matt Wait, P; Ken Anderson, DE

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Clint Stoerner, Jr., 173-357-2,347 yds, 12 TDs, 13 INTs

**Rushing:** Rod Stinson, So., 111 carries, 413 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Emanuel Smith, Jr., 28, 1 TD

**Receiving (Yards):** Anthony Lucas, Jr., 495, 4 TDs

**Tackles:** Melvin Bradley, Sr., 71

**Sacks:** Bradley, C.J. McLain, Sr., 4

**Interceptions:** Ortraia Moss, Jr., Jeromy Flowers, Jr., 2

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Todd Latourette, Sr., 7-12 FGs (long 47), 20-20 PATs

**Scoring:** Latourette, 41 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 SW LOUISIANA  
9/19 SMU  
9/26 ALABAMA  
10/3 KENTUCKY  
10/10 @ Memphis  
10/17 @ S. Carolina  
10/31 @ Auburn  
11/7 OLE MISS  
11/14 @ Tennessee  
11/21 @ Mississippi St.  
11/28 LSU

## 1997 RESULTS

NORTH TEXAS; W, 29-12  
ALABAMA; L, 20-0  
TCU; W, 40-16  
@ Mississippi; L, 15-3  
LSU; L, 7-6  
@ N. Illinois; W, 17-7  
GEORGIA; L, 34-13  
@ S. Carolina; L, 35-3  
@ Florida; L, 20-7  
KENTUCKY; L, 21-10  
@ Tennessee; L, 17-10

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

QB: C. Stoerner (Jr., 6-0, 220)\* C. Jones (So., 6-0, 214)  
RB: C. Chukwuma (So., 6-1, 225) M. Hill (Sr., 6-1, 188)  
FB: N. Norman (Jr., 6-0, 234)\* M. Caston (Jr., 6-0, 234)  
WR: A. Lucas (Jr., 6-3, 196)\* M. Snowden (Jr., 6-3, 209)  
WR: E. Smith (Jr., 6-1, 223) M. Williams (Jr., 5-10, 183)  
TE: A. Heringer (Jr., 6-4, 258) J.D. Davenport (Jr., 6-7, 268)\*  
LT: C. Abernathy (Sr., 6-5, 287)\* M. Clavette (So., 6-7, 328)  
LG: R. Brown (Sr., 6-0, 284)\* S. Money (Fr., 6-3, 288)  
C: G. Garrett (Sr., 6-3, 287)\* K. Sandlin (Fr., 6-3, 296)  
RG: B. Burlsworth (Sr., 6-3, 301)\* B. Shockley (So., 6-8, 322)  
RT: B. Williams (Jr., 6-4, 335)\* M. Jefferson (Jr., 6-6, 303)

## DEFENSE

DE: R. Garner (So., 6-4, 246)\* N. Nero (Sr., 6-1, 243)  
DT: R. Hale (Sr., 6-4, 291)\* C. McDougale (Sr., 6-3, 278)  
NG: M. Bradley (Sr., 6-2, 265)\* D.J. Cooper (Jr., 6-3, 267)  
DE: C.J. McLain (Sr., 6-4, 243) B. Smith (So., 6-4, 228)  
LB: J.J. Jones (Jr., 6-1, 232) H. Wilson (Sr., 6-1, 230)  
LB: J. Harris (Jr., 5-11, 228)\* O. Caver (So., 6-5, 221)\*  
CB: J. Flowers (Jr., 6-0, 191)\* J. Harper (So., 5-10, 176)  
CB: Z. Painter (Sr., 5-10, 195)\* D. Berry (Fr., 5-9, 171)  
CB: D. Barrett (Jr., 5-10, 189) R. Morreale (So., 5-11, 169)  
CB: O. Moss (Jr., 5-9, 180) O. Green (Fr., 5-10, 198)  
FS: K. Kennedy (Jr., 6-1, 195)\* C. Chalmers (Jr., 5-10, 184)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: T. Latourette (Sr., 6-4, 210)\* T. Dodson (Jr., 5-9, 172)  
P: G. Pruitt (Jr., 6-1, 190) L. Kaplan (So., 5-11, 191)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

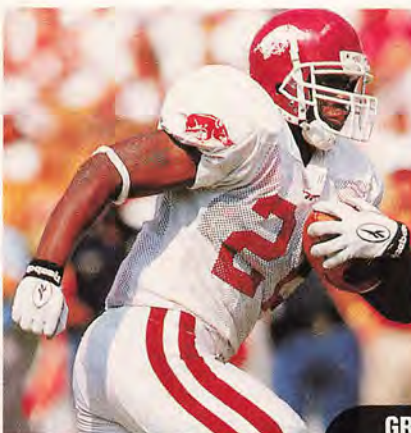
• If Clint Stoerner continues on the pace he established in 1997, he will obliterate the Razorbacks career record of 5,782 passing yards by the middle of next season.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.hogwired.com



# Arkansas



CHRYIS CHUKWUMA-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Offense must generate more points.
- Secondary needs to create more turnovers.
- Experienced team must improve its level of play.

It takes a Nutt. At Murray State, the Division I-AA school in Kentucky, head coach Houston Nutt built an Ohio Valley Conference power. At Boise State, the Division I-A school in Idaho, Nutt began rebuilding their fledgling program in only one year. But then he received a phone call from home, a call to build Arkansas to the top of the SEC. It may take a Nutt indeed.

Houston Dale Nutt grew up in Little Rock, Ark. He was a Parade All-American quarterback at Little Rock Central and won a state basketball title his junior season. He played two years of football and basketball at Arkansas, where he was the last recruit signed by current Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles.

He transferred to Oklahoma State in 1978, and served as a graduate football assistant, where he met a guy named Jimmy Johnson. He returned to Arkansas as an assistant in 1983, went to Arkansas State for a year, then to Oklahoma State (1984-89) and back to Arkansas (1990-92). He got the head coaching job at Murray St. in 1993, whipping up both interest and victories. When Bill Curry was fired at Kentucky in 1996, both Jimmy Johnson and Broyles phoned Kentucky athletic director C.M. Newton on Nutt's behalf, though the school chose to go in a different direction. Nutt claims that was for the best.

"It is the people in this state that make this job special," said Nutt when he got the job, replacing the ousted Danny Ford back in December. "They are the reason I've always wanted to coach here."

## OFFENSE

The new coach has a lot of work to do. Ford's final team dropped to last in the league in total offense, averaging just 273 yards per

game. The Razorbacks were also last in rushing, averaging just 56.55 yards per game. And yet nine starters return. Clint Stoerner, a junior, returns at quarterback, as does his quarterbacks coach, ex-Arkansas and ex-NFL star Joe Ferguson. Last year, Stoerner threw for 2,347 yards and 12 touchdowns, as well as 13 interceptions. Anthony Lucas, a sophomore, gives the new coach a good target. Last year he caught 27 passes, averaging 18.3 yards per catch. Rod Stinson returns as the leading rusher (413 yards), but will play behind Chrys Chukwuma and Madre Hill. Senior offensive guard Brandon Burlsworth, named first-team All-SEC by *Football News*, leads the blockers up front.

## DEFENSE

In an unusual setup, the Razorbacks will have co-defensive coordinators with Bobby Allen and Keith Burns. Arkansas was 10th in the SEC in total defense last year, giving up 351.7 yards per game. Still, eight starters return, including nose guard Melvin Bradley, who has led the team in tackles each of the past two seasons. The 6-foot-2, 265-pounder from Barton Arkansas had seven tackles for losses, recovered four fumbles, made four sacks, and returned a fumble for a touchdown last season. He's the heart of the defense. The new staff has good depth at linebacker, thanks to Jamel Harris, who was second on the team in tackles with 61, J.J. Jones and Quenton Caver.

The pass defense needs improvement. The Razorbacks intercepted just nine passes last year, and wound up 11th in pass efficiency defense.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker Todd Latourette, who made seven of 12 field goals a year ago, returns. However, punter Matt Wait, who averaged 41.9 yards per kick, with a long punt of 72 yards, must be replaced. Grant Pruitt, a junior who kicked for Nutt at Murray State but transferred to Arkansas when Nutt left for Boise, could end up with the job in the fall.

## RECRUITING

Nutt got a late start, but proved to be a scrambler. Though none of the major recruiting services placed the Razorbacks in their top 20s, Nutt covered the state well, signing 11 players from Arkansas. He also dipped into Texas for three players, and signed a junior college offensive lineman in Curtis Sanders, out of Middle Georgia College.

By John Clay





BRAD WARE-FS

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Leard needs to forget whom he's replacing and establish himself ... and produce.
- Williams' team-leading rushing total must be closer to 1,000 than 100.
- Improve upon a defense that finished sixth in the SEC.

Terry Bowden faces a major rebuilding project as he begins his sixth season with the Tigers. From Dameyune Craig, who became the first quarterback in Auburn history to throw for more than 3,000 yards, to All-American linebacker Takeo Spikes to placekicker/punter Jaret Holmes, Auburn is a team that saw graduation and the lure of the NFL take its toll. "The thing we have to find this spring is a strong base of leadership on this football team," Bowden said. "Without leadership you can't play championship football. We must see some people jump out front at every position."

The Tigers accomplished a major goal by reaching the SEC championship game, but it won't be long before the War Eagles' faithful demands more than a Peach Bowl victory over Clemson.

## OFFENSE

The unenviable task of following Craig likely will fall to sophomore Ben Leard, who has exactly one pass completion for five yards to his credit. Leard redshirted his first season and saw action in only four games a year ago. Meiko Collier is slated as Leard's backup, though both could be pushed by Shawn Bushong (6-4, 238), a true freshman out of New Smyrna Beach High in Edgewater, Fla. Senior Karsten Bailey, the Tigers' leading receiver with 53 catches for 840 yards and seven touchdowns, will provide Leard with at least one proven target.

Leard will get little help from a running game that was anemic at best last season, averaging only 73.8 yards per game. Junior tailback Rusty Williams, who led Auburn with 277 yards rushing, returns and will be backed by sophomore Demontray Carter. Tellie Embery, a sophomore who had just four carries last season, tops the depth chart at fullback.

"The tailback position is a continuation of the struggle," Bowden said. "I expect someone to rise above the others. There is an old saying that if you have more than one tailback, then you don't have a tailback. We need one to accept the challenge and step out, and we're accepting all comers."

## DEFENSE

Despite the early departure of Spikes, the Tigers' leading tackler a season ago, Auburn is experienced and deep on defense.

The Tigers are one of only two teams in the SEC who employ the old 3-4 alignment, and they prosper because of a combination of speed and strength up front. Senior Jimmy Brumbaugh, who led Auburn with five sacks last year, leads the pack and is joined by fellow senior Charles Dorsey and junior Leonardo Carson.

Sophomore Manning Sumner will be called upon to take Spikes' place, and he will be surrounded by veteran talent: senior Ryan Taylor and juniors Quinton Reese and Haven Fields.

Auburn's secondary is anchored by junior Brad Ware, who picked off four passes to earn second-team all-SEC honors last season. He'll need to roam far and wide to help junior Antwine Nolan and sophomores Larry Casher and Rob Pate if the Tigers hope to match last season's impressive mark of holding opponents to 229 passing yards per game.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Holmes, who did double duty as Auburn's punter and placekicker, is gone and will be replaced by inexperienced seniors. Jeremy Zills takes over the punting duties after three kicks a year ago, and Kevin Gentle will carry his perfect 1-for-1 PAT mark into the season.

## RECRUITING

Local help was lacking, as Auburn found itself running second to Alabama-Birmingham in signing the state's top players. The Tigers ended up with more players from Florida (10) than Alabama (seven). Receiver Willie Northern, a SuperPrep All-American from Shanks, Fla., was the top of the Tigers' class. Northern caught 43 passes for 940 yards and 13 touchdowns in just eight games as a senior. Auburn also got some help at quarterback with Bushong, who recorded 1,375 yards of total offense as a high school senior. The bad news for Auburn is that Bushong was fourth on Bowden's list; the top three signed with Tennessee, Notre Dame and Georgia.

By Jonathan Dalton

## AUBURN Facts

**Coach:** Terry Bowden, 6th year, 46-12; 110-45-2 overall '97 Record: 10-3 (6-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Jordan-Hare Stadium, Auburn, Ala. (85,214; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (5 off., 8 def.)

**Key Players Lost:** Takeo Spikes, LB (1st-team All-SEC); Dameyune Craig, QB (2nd-team All-SEC); Ricky Neal, LB; Fred Beasley, FB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Ben Leard, So., 1-2-5 yards

**Rushing:** Rusty Williams, Jr., 77 carries, 277 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Karsten Bailey, Sr., 53, 7 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Bailey, 840

**Tackles:** Jimmy Brumbaugh, Sr., 78

**Sacks:** Brumbaugh, 5

**Interceptions:** Brad Ware, Jr., 4

**Punting:** Jeremy Zills, Sr., 36.3 avg.

**Kicking:** Kevin Gentle, Sr., 1-1 PAT

**Scoring:** Bailey, 42 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/4 VIRGINIA  
9/12 @ Mississippi  
9/19 LSU  
10/3 TENNESSEE  
10/10 @ Mississippi St.  
10/17 @ Florida  
10/24 LA TECH  
10/31 ARKANSAS  
11/7 C. FLORIDA  
11/14 GEORGIA  
11/21 vs. Alabama\*

\* in Birmingham

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Virginia; W, 28-17  
MISSISSIPPI; W, 19-9  
@ LSU; W, 31-28  
C. FLORIDA; W, 41-14  
@ South Carolina; W, 23-6  
LA TECH; W, 49-13  
FLORIDA; L, 24-10  
@ Arkansas; W, 26-21  
MISSISSIPPI ST.; L, 20-0  
@ Georgia; W, 45-34  
ALABAMA; W, 18-17  
vs. Tennessee; L, 30-29\*  
vs. Clemson; W, 21-17\*\*

\*SEC Championship  
\*\*Peach Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Leard (So., 6-3, 223) M. Collier (Fr., 6-2, 231)  
RB: R. Williams (Jr., 6-0, 213)\* D. Carter (So., 5-11, 189)  
FB: T. Embery (So., 6-0, 222) H. Evans (Fr., 6-1, 236)  
WR: C. Robinson (So., 5-8, 176) B. Hooker (So., 6-0, 194)  
WR: K. Bailey (Sr., 6-0, 203)\* E. Lowe (Sr., 6-0, 215)  
TE: R. Tankersley (Fr., 6-3, 250) J. Schwieger (Jr., 6-5, 245)  
LT: J. James (Jr., 6-4, 298)\* C. Sears (So., 6-3, 285)  
LG: T. J. Meers (So., 6-6, 306) K. Simmons (So., 6-3, 312)  
C: T. J. Dunigan (Jr., 6-3, 300)\* K. Lavine (Sr., 6-3, 279)  
RG: D. Curry (Sr., 6-5, 319) K. Simmons (So., 6-3, 312)  
RT: K. Mack (Jr., 6-5, 317)\* M. Pucillo (Fr., 6-4, 300)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Brumbaugh (Sr., 6-1, 286)\* J. Dunlap (So., 6-5, 263)  
NT: C. Dorsey (Sr., 6-2, 291)\* J. Weldon (Fr., 6-4, 277)  
DE: L. Carson (Jr., 6-3, 272)\* J. Banks (So., 6-3, 264)  
LB: Q. Reese (Jr., 6-4, 246)\* B. Chambers (So., 6-2, 241)  
LB: R. Taylor (Sr., 6-2, 230)\* M. Washington (Jr., 6-3, 233)  
LB: H. Fields (Jr., 6-0, 222) N. Gardner (Jr., 5-10, 239)  
LB: M. Sumner (So., 6-0, 224) W. Smith (Fr., 6-3, 224)  
CB: L. Casher (So., 5-10, 175) J. Bray (Sr., 5-10, 186)  
CB: A. Nolan (Jr., 5-9, 184)\* B. Crayton (So., 5-8, 174)  
SS: R. Pate (So., 6-3, 204)\* C. Rose (So., 5-8, 189)  
FS: B. Ware (Jr., 6-2, 202)\* A. Weeks (Fr., 6-1, 204)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: K. Gentle (Sr., 6-1, 198) J. Zills (Sr., 6-3, 210)  
P: J. Zills (Sr., 6-3, 210) K. Gentle (Sr., 6-1, 198)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• With 35 receptions, Karsten Bailey will become the Tigers' career leader in the category, passing Terry Beasley (141).

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.auburn.edu/athletics



# LSU Facts

**Coach:** Gerry DiNardo, 4th year, 26-9-1; 45-34-1 overall  
**'97 Record:** 9-3 (6-2 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Tiger Stadium, Baton Rouge, La. (79,940; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 16 (9 off., 7 def.)  
**Key Players Lost:** Alan Faneca, OL (1st-team All-SEC); Chuck Wiley, DT (1st-team All-SEC); Cedric Donaldson, CB (1st-team All-SEC); Chad Kessler, P (1st-team All-SEC)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Herb Tyler, Sr., 127-209-1,581 yards, 10 TDs, 7 INTs  
**Rushing:** Kevin Faulk, Sr., 205 carries, 1,144 yards, 15 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Larry Foster, Jr., 43, 4 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Foster, 579  
**Tackles:** Joe Wesley, Sr., 105  
**Sacks:** Anthony McFarland, Sr., 6  
**Interceptions:** Chris Beard, Sr., and Raion Hill, Sr., 2  
**Punting:** Jeremy Witten, Jr., 35.0 avg.  
**Kicking:** Danny Boyd, 1-4 FGs (long 30)  
**Scoring:** Faulk, 90

## 1998 SCHEDULE

Sept. 12 ARKANSAS ST.  
 Sept. 19 @ Auburn  
 Sept. 26 IDAHO  
 Oct. 3 GEORGIA  
 Oct. 10 @ Florida  
 Oct. 17 KENTUCKY  
 Oct. 24 MISSISSIPPI ST.  
 Oct. 31 @ Mississippi  
 Nov. 7 ALABAMA  
 Nov. 21 @ Notre Dame  
 Nov. 28 @ Arkansas

## 1997 RESULTS

UTEP; W, 55-3  
 @ Mississippi St.; W, 24-9  
 AUBURN; L, 31-28  
 AKRON; W, 56-0  
 @ Vanderbilt; W, 7-6  
 FLORIDA; W, 28-21  
 MISSISSIPPI; L, 36-21  
 @ Kentucky; W, 63-28  
 @ Alabama; W, 27-0  
 NOTRE DAME; L, 24-6  
 ARKANSAS; W, 31-21  
 vs. Notre Dame; W, 27-9\*

\*Independence Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: H. Tyler (Sr., 6-0, 203)\* R. Davey (Fr., 6-3, 227)  
 RB: K. Faulk (Sr., 5-10, 196)\* R. Mealey (Jr., 6-0, 203)  
 FB: T. Banks (So., 6-0, 249)\* R. Tyler (Jr., 6-0, 247)  
 WR: A. Booty (Sr., 6-2, 185)\* M. Hayes (Fr., 6-5, 220)  
 WR: L. Foster (Jr., 5-10, 190)\* N. Bates (Jr., 5-10, 190)  
 TE: J. Domingueaux (So., 6-6, 267)\* J. Pack (Jr., 6-3, 263)  
 LT: L. Williams (So., 6-6, 292) R. Hebert (Jr., 6-4, 293)  
 LG: A. Jackson (Jr., 6-3, 307)\* A. Puckett (So., 6-3, 290)  
 C: T. McClure (Sr., 6-2, 280)\* N. Menard (Jr., 6-2, 275)  
 RG: B. Thomassie (Sr., 6-2, 282) D. Pierce (So., 6-2, 308)  
 RT: T. Langley (So., 6-5, 305)\* B. Winey (So., 6-7, 294)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Green (Fr., 6-3, 252) W. Harvey (So., 6-4, 254)  
 DT: J. Mitchell (Jr., 6-5, 293) K. Mitchell (So., 6-3, 271)  
 NG: A. McFarland (Sr., 6-1, 290)\* M. Barnes (Fr., 6-2, 270)  
 LB: A. Miller (Sr., 6-4, 239)\* R. Matthews (Jr., 6-5, 237)  
 LB: J. Wesley (Sr., 6-2, 233)\* W. Sykes (So., 6-1, 230)  
 LB: C. Smith (Jr., 6-2, 220)\* T. Dunson (Fr., 6-3, 232)  
 LB: T. Williams (Jr., 6-3, 235) A. Adams (Sr., 6-3, 225)  
 CB: F. Booker (So., 5-9, 189) N. Gates (So., 6-0, 187)  
 CB: C. Cummings (Sr., 5-9, 184)\* T. O'Bryant (Fr., 6-4, 208)  
 SS: R. Hill (Sr., 6-1, 201) C. Beard (Sr., 5-11, 190)\*  
 FS: M. Roman (Jr., 6-0, 185)\* R. Davis (Fr., 5-9, 182)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Boyd (Jr., 6-0, 220) C. Chauvin (Fr., 5-10, 178)  
 P: J. Witten (Jr., 5-10, 170) C. Gibbs (Jr., 6-0, 203)

\* Denotes returning starter

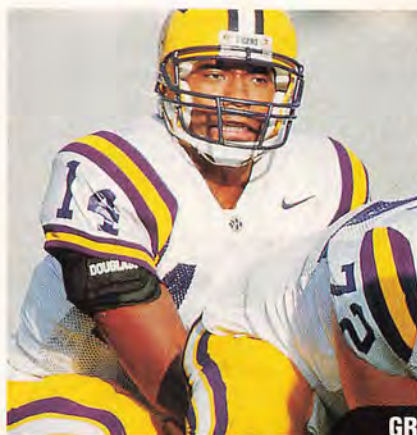
## MILESTONE

• Kevin Faulk is currently seventh on the all-time SEC list for all-purpose yards; with 1,026 yards this season he will cruise by Herschel Walker into first place.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.sports.lsu.edu.com

LSU Tigers LSU



HERB TYLER-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Defense under new coordinator Lou Tepper must not slip.
- Find room for the top trio of runners in the backfield.
- Kicking game must replace SEC's top punter in Chad Kessler.

Kevin Faulk stayed. Carl Reese did not. Faulk surprised nearly everyone at the beginning of the year when he decided to forego the NFL draft and stick around at LSU for another season. Thanks to the Louisiana native's decision, coach Gerry "Grind-It-Out" DiNardo has the makings of an earth-moving machine for an offense, especially if Cecil "The Diesel" Collins bounces back from a broken leg to join Faulk, Rondell Mealey and quarterback Herb Tyler in an experienced backfield.

But after a 9-3 record and a first-place tie for the West Division title in the SEC, LSU defensive coordinator Carl Reese jumped ship, taking a job on new coach Mack Brown's staff at Texas. To replace Reese, DiNardo brought in Lou Tepper, the former head coach at Illinois and before that a fellow assistant coach with DiNardo under Bill McCartney at Colorado.

How Tepper handles the defense will be a key to the Tigers' title hopes in '98.

## OFFENSE

First Faulk starred, then he was hurt. Then Collins starred until he broke his leg. Faulk returned, was hurt again, and so here came Mealey to lead the Tigers to a revenge win over Notre Dame in the Independence Bowl. Can you say full-house backfield?

DiNardo can. In fact, the ex-practioner of the I-Bone has even mentioned the word "wishbone" in discussing a talented backfield of the senior speedster Faulk, the junior powerback Collins, and the junior utility man Mealey. Faulk rushed for 1,144 yards in nine games last year to lead the SEC; Mealey had 664 yards in 11 games, and Collins gained 596 yards in just four games, an average of 149 per game. No wonder LSU led the SEC and was seventh in the nation in rushing last year.

Collins rushed for 172 yards on 22 carries against Mississippi State, then 232 yards against Auburn and finally 179 yards on 20 carries against Akron before breaking his leg the next week at Vanderbilt.

"As far as the question of how do you keep everyone happy, winning should be enough to keep them happy," DiNardo said. "My belief is that is enough."

Tyler, a fourth-year starter, is back to take the snaps. He can run, too. When he throws, Tyler has a pair of now veteran receivers in Larry Foster (43 catches last year) and Abram Booty (35). Joe Domingueaux returns after starting seven games and making a solid contribution at tight end as a freshman.

The offensive line lost its best player, junior guard Alan Faneca, but senior center Todd McClure and sophomore right tackle Trey Langley are both back.

## DEFENSE

Tepper, who introduced a new 3-4 scheme in the spring, must rework a defensive line that lost studs

Chuck Wiley and Kenny Mixon, but does return nose tackle Anthony McFarland. McFarland was second-team All-SEC in 1996 before slipping a bit last year.

Linebacker Joe Wesley led the Tigers in tackles with 105 last year, only the fourth player in school history to top the century mark. Free safety Mark Roman leads a veteran secondary that also boasts Chris Cummings and Chris Beard. Nickelback Clarence LeBlanc was suspended from the team in the spring but hoped to be back by fall.

"I never thought I would say this in 31 years of coaching, but we are truly a fundamental team," Tepper said. "That's disappearing in college football and the NFL."

## SPECIAL TEAMS

DiNardo must replace All-SEC punter Chad Kessler, who averaged a booming 50.3 yards per kick last year. Placekicker Wade Richey is also gone, but Faulk is back to return kickoffs and punts. He averaged 24.1 yards per kickoff return and 13.7 per punt return.

## RECRUITING

Another standout year for DiNardo. Kendrick Allen, a 6-6, 300-pound defensive lineman from Bogalusa who made the USA Today All-USA second team, is considered the biggest catch. Literally the biggest catch is Brad Smalling, a 6-8, 348-pound guard who joined Allen on USA Today's All-USA second team.

By John Clay





# Mississippi



RUFUS FRENCH-TE

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- The grooming and maturation of QB Romaro Miller.
- TB Deuce McAllister must exhibit John Avery-like big-play capabilities.
- Impact from six new defensive starters.

Mississippi came off probation for the first time since 1994 and, dressing just 68 scholarship players, stunned many a prognosticator by rolling to its first bowl berth in five years.

Highlights included a manhandling of LSU at Baton Rouge (just seven days after the Tigers upset Florida) and a last-second, come-from-behind victory over rival Mississippi State on the road that earned the Rebels their invitation to the inaugural Motor City Bowl. Ole Miss capped its magical year with another comeback win, this time against Randy Moss and Marshall for its first winning season of the last six. The good feelings extended into the offseason, when coach Tommy Tuberville waved off overtures from Arkansas, his native state, and signed a contract extension to remain at Ole Miss.

The Rebels, who will still fall between 13-15 under the NCAA scholarship limit of 85, lost a handful of productive seniors, but are talented enough to get in the thick of the Western Division race. Now, if they can just figure out a way to beat Alabama (0-7 since '89) and Auburn (0-5 since '93).

## OFFENSE

Ole Miss loses quarterback Stewart Patridge and running back John Avery, who combined for 82 percent of the Rebels' total offense last season. In their place come Romaro Miller and Deuce McAllister. The Rebels' spent the bulk of their spring drills getting Miller repetition after repetition, evidenced by his 500-yard, six-TD effort in one scrimmage (albeit, a long scrimmage). At 6-1, 190, he's athletic and can run, but needs to be able to throw and throw well. McAllister, meanwhile, was more than solid in spelling Avery last season, averaging 4.3 yards per carry and finishing with 402 for the year. The Rebels would like to work mostly out of a one-back

set, with McAllister the featured runner.

Rufus French is the league's best tight end, a first-team All-SEC pick who caught 43 passes last season. Wideouts Cory Peterson and Grant Heard combined for 75 catches and 1,140 yards, and the offensive line is headed by left guard Terrence Metcalf, who started as a true freshman last season, along with tackle Todd Wade and three-year starter Matt Luke at center.

## DEFENSE

Tuberville specialized in defense before becoming a head coach, so it must've been maddening for him to watch opponents rush for 165.27 yards per game, next-to-last in the league. Though six starters are gone, the Rebels can move in some players who worked as substitution fill-ins last year.

Derrick Burgess, who started 11 games and made 49 tackles as a true freshman last season, is a pillar on the defensive line. Michael Boone, whose brother, Anthony, captained the Rebels' basketball team, needs to play bigger and stronger, as does Tennessee transfer Mitch Baker.

Ole Miss lost all three of its starters at linebacker, including leading tacklers Broc Kreitz and Nate Wayne. To soften the situation, Tuberville moved Ronnie Heard (brother of wideout Grant) from strong safety to one spot. Armegis Spearman and Al Rice are expected to take the other two linebacking positions.

Mississippi had the third-best pass defense in the league, but must replace two starters, including Heard. The two returnees, free safety Timothy Strickland and cornerback Gary Thigpen, are very good players. Thigpen, a senior, will honor the tradition of wearing No. 38—"The Chuckie Mullins Award"—as the team's best defensive back or linebacker.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Reagan King is back after averaging 41 yards per punt in eight games. The Rebels return no one who has ever attempted a field goal. Red-shirt freshman Donald Juneau was the leader coming out of spring practice.

## RECRUITING

For the second straight year, Ole Miss was without any scholarship restrictions from its NCAA penalties and was able to sign the maximum allotment of 25 players. The best of the bunch could be Eddie Strong, a linebacker out of Batesville, Miss., who could see action immediately.

By Chris Harry

## MISSISSIPPI Facts

**Coach:** Tommy Tuberville, 4th year, 19-15

**'97 Record:** 8-4 (4-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, Oxford, Miss. (50,577; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 12 (6 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** John Avery, RB (2nd-team All-SEC); Devon Coburn, OL (2nd-team All-SEC); Broc Kreitz, LB (2nd-team All-SEC); Stewart Patridge, QB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Romaro Miller, So., 5-11-27 yards, 1 INT

**Rushing:** Deuce McAllister, So., 94 carries, 402 yards, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Rufus French, Jr., 43, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Cory Peterson, Jr., 527, 1 TD

**Tackles:** Timothy Strickland, Jr., 79

**Sacks:** Michael Boone, Jr., 4

**Interceptions:** Strickland, 2

**Punting:** Reagan King, So., 41.0 avg.

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** McAllister, 24 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 MEMPHIS  
9/12 AUBURN  
9/19 @ Vanderbilt  
9/26 @ SMU  
10/3 S. CAROLINA  
10/10 @ Alabama  
10/24 ARKANSAS ST.  
10/31 LSU  
11/7 @ Arkansas  
11/21 @ Georgia  
11/26 MISSISSIPPI ST.

## 1997 RESULTS

C. FLORIDA; W, 24-23  
SMU; W, 23-15  
@ Auburn; L, 19-9  
VANDERBILT; W, 15-3  
@ Tennessee; L, 31-17  
@ LSU; W, 36-21  
ALABAMA; L, 29-20  
ARKANSAS; W, 19-9  
@ Tulane; W, 41-24  
GEORGIA; L, 21-14  
@ Miss. State; W, 15-14  
vs. Marshall; W, 34-31\*  
\*Motor City Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: R. Miller (So., 6-1, 190) J. Hill (Fr., 6-1, 175)  
RB: D. McAllister (So., 6-1, 210) J. Meeks (Fr., 5-8, 185)  
RB: T. Cannon (Sr., 5-10, 190) J. Gunn (Fr., 5-10, 196)  
HB: S. Morris (Jr., 5-10, 165) B. Robinson (So., 5-9, 175)  
WR: C. Peterson (Jr., 6-2, 195)\* K. Lucas (So., 6-1, 193)  
WR: G. Heard (Jr., 6-3, 190)\* J. Armstrong (Fr., 6-1, 180)  
TE: R. French (Jr., 6-4, 254)\* A. Bettis (Jr., 6-2, 220)  
LT: T. Reyes (Jr., 6-3, 275) P. Bolden (So., 6-4, 270)  
LG: T. Metcalf (So., 6-3, 302)\* J. McGarvey (Fr., 6-4, 310)  
C: M. Luke (Sr., 6-2, 265)\* C. Perkins (So., 6-2, 290)  
RG: K. Vincent (So., 6-5, 345) S. Grice (So., 6-2, 300)  
RT: T. Wade (Jr., 6-7, 295)\* P. Bolden (So., 6-4, 270)

### DEFENSE

DE: D. Burgess (So., 6-3, 252)\* S. Flann (So., 6-2, 225)  
DT: K. Clancey (Jr., 6-2, 265) C. Fisher (Jr., 6-2, 280)  
DT: A. Scott (So., 6-2, 244) M. Boone (Jr., 6-4, 285)\*  
DE: R. Gates (Sr., 6-2, 236) M. Scott (Sr., 6-2, 225)  
LB: R. Heard (Jr., 6-3, 200)\* W. Hill (Jr., 5-11, 195)  
LB: A. Spearman (Jr., 6-2, 240) C. Cook (So., 6-0, 225)  
LB: A. Rice (Jr., 6-1, 210) A. Alexander (Sr., 6-1, 220)  
CB: G. Thigpen (Sr., 5-9, 165)\* K. Graham (So., 5-7, 165)  
CB: T. Strickland (Jr., 5-10, 190)\* J. Coleman (Fr., 5-10, 170)  
FS: K. Woods (Jr., 6-2, 205) T. Wright (Jr., 5-11, 176)  
SS: A. Magee (So., 6-0, 175) M. Pearson (Fr., 5-11, 173)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Juneau (Fr., 5-10, 163) B. Sinis (Fr., 6-0, 182)  
P: R. King (So., 6-3, 223)\* B. Craddock (So., 6-0, 190)

### MILESTONE

• The Rebels will be looking to win bowl games in consecutive seasons for the first time since a run of four straight in 1958-61 that included the 1960 Football Writers of America national championship.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.olemiss.edu.sports/



# MISSISSIPPI ST. Facts

**Coach:** Jackie Sherrill, 8th year, 41-37-2;

146-82-4 overall

**'97 Record:** 7-4 (4-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Scott Field, Starkville, Miss.

(40,656; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (7 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Greg Favors, DE/LB (1st-team All-SEC); Robert Hicks, OL (2nd-team All-SEC); Eric Brown, S (2nd-team All-SEC)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Matt Wyatt, Jr., 92-201-1,369 yards, 6 TDs, 15 INTs

**Rushing:** James Johnson, Sr., 217 carries, 1,069 yards, 12 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Kevin Prentiss, Sr., 20, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Prentiss, 385

**Tackles:** Barrin Simpson, Jr., 104

**Sacks:** Simpson, 3

**Interceptions:** Kendall Roberson, Jr., 4

**Punting:** Jeff Walker, Jr., 45.5 avg.

**Kicking:** Brian Hazelwood, Sr., 16-26 FGs (long 53), 22-23 PATs

**Scoring:** Johnson, 72 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 VANDERBILT  
9/12 @ Memphis  
9/19 @ Oklahoma St.  
9/26 @ South Carolina  
10/10 AUBURN  
10/17 E. TENN. ST.  
10/24 @ LSU  
11/7 @ Kentucky  
11/14 ALABAMA  
11/21 ARKANSAS  
11/26 @ Mississippi

## 1997 RESULTS

MEMPHIS; W, 13-10  
KENTUCKY; W, 35-27  
LSU; L, 24-9  
S. CAROLINA; W, 37-17  
@ Georgia; L, 47-0  
NE LOUISIANA; W, 24-10  
C. FLORIDA; W, 35-28  
@ Auburn; W, 20-0  
@ Alabama; W, 32-20  
@ Arkansas; L, 17-7  
MISSISSIPPI; L, 15-14

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER OFFENSE

QB: M. Wyatt (Jr., 6-5, 226)\* B. Morgan (Jr., 6-2, 195)  
TB: J. Johnson (Sr., 6-2, 225) C. Rainey (Jr., 5-9, 202)  
FB: D. McKinley (Sr., 6-2, 231) B. Gibson (Jr., 5-10, 215)  
WR: K. Cooper (Sr., 6-3, 195) L. Grant (Sr., 6-1, 198)  
WR: K. Prentiss (Sr., 5-9, 150)\* M. Butler (Jr., 6-3, 196)  
TE: R. Kelly (Sr., 6-5, 243) J. Jennings (Sr., 6-4, 240)\*  
LT: F. Womack (So., 6-4, 351) T. Thomas (So., 6-3, 276)  
LG: C. Moore (Sr., 6-3, 325) P. Mooney (Jr., 6-8, 320)  
C: E. Allen (Sr., 6-5, 288)\* S. Price (Sr., 6-2, 289)\*  
RG: R. Thomas (Sr., 6-4, 292)\* M. Fair (So., 6-4, 292)  
RT: A. Kapp (Sr., 6-4, 333)\* W. Shivers (Jr., 6-7, 305)

## DEFENSE

DE: L. Campbell (Sr., 6-2, 230) B. Knight (Jr., 6-2, 214)  
DT: K. Sluder (Jr., 6-5, 253) M. Coley (Sr., 6-5, 274)  
NG: K. Smith (Sr., 6-1, 259) G. Henry (Jr., 6-3, 311)  
DT: J. Hilliard (Jr., 6-4, 263) E. Wymys (So., 6-5, 263)  
DE: C. Menafee (Jr., 6-1, 231) E. Smith (Sr., 6-1, 230)  
LB: B. Simpson (Jr., 6-1, 227)\* J. Dinkins (So., 6-2, 220)  
LB: B. Keys (Sr., 6-1, 270) E. Yeates (So., 6-2, 220)  
CB: K. Roberson (Jr., 6-2, 188)\* K. Jones (Jr., 6-1, 190)  
CB: A. Derricks (Sr., 6-0, 185)\* A. Baden (Sr., 6-0, 187)  
SS: T. Nelson (Jr., 5-9, 185)\* E. Clinton (So., 6-0, 189)  
FS: E. Daniel (Sr., 6-2, 182) A. Cooper (Jr., 6-0, 207)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: B. Hazelwood (Sr., 6-0, 195)\* J. Walker (Jr., 6-0, 205)  
P: J. Walker (Jr., 6-0, 205)\* M. Wyatt (Jr., 6-5, 226)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• The Bulldogs have a chance to beat Alabama three consecutive years for the first time since the 1912-14 seasons.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.msstate.edu



# Mississippi St.



JAMES JOHNSON-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Significant improvement from quarterback Matt Wyatt.
- A better, more manageable offensive scheme to fit the players involved.
- Rapid development from a youthful front seven.

The drowning death of star running back Keffer McGee leveled Mississippi State just days before the start of two-a-days last season. McGee was the team's heart and soul, and it seemed too much to expect the Bulldogs to weather his shocking loss so quickly.

Yet, there was Mississippi State, smack in the thick of the SEC Western Division hunt when it counted most. The Bulldogs, who had been whipped by LSU early and then annihilated by Georgia, 47-0, positioned themselves for a trip to the league title game by beating Auburn and Alabama—back-to-back, no less—on the road for the first time in school history. All Mississippi State had to do was win at struggling Arkansas, mired in a five-game losing skid, and defeat Ole Miss at home.

Guess what? Loss. Loss.

At 7-4, the 1997 season was good enough to buy Jackie Sherrill a new four-year contract, but the year will be remembered for missed opportunities. The goal for the Bulldogs this season is to finish what they started last season.

## OFFENSE

Last summer, Sherrill predicted quarterback Matt Wyatt one day would be playing on Sundays. This summer, Sherrill and offensive coordinator Lynn Amedee better worry about getting Wyatt to play on Saturdays. Wyatt was the lowest-rated starting quarterback in the SEC, completing just 46 percent of his passes while throwing only six touchdowns to 15 interceptions. "We've got to improve there," Amedee said. "We can't depend on the running game 80 percent of the time."

Not that the ground attack isn't in good hands. James Johnson became just the fourth back in school history to rush for 1,000 yards, and the offensive line returns

four starters, led by center Eric Allen.

Receivers such as Kevin Prentiss, who averaged 19.2 yards on 20 catches, and Kevin Cooper, who was dogged by knee problems last season, and the Bulldogs trio of solid tight ends—Reggie Kelly, the best runner and catcher of the bunch, John Jennings, and Terry McCaskey—will be as good as the overall passing game.

## DEFENSE

Coordinator Joe Lee Dunn has switched from a 4-2-5 scheme to a 5-2-4 in hopes of doing a quick-fix on a defense that lost seven starters, including all four from the defensive front.

Larry Campbell and Cornell Menafee are more suited for linebacker, but that's how Dunn likes his ends in this alignment. Tackle John Hilliard showed some late-season signs of blossoming into the All-American he was coming out of high school. He'll team with Kevin Sluder inside and flank either Kenwoyenne Smith or JUCO transfer Alvin McKinley, the likely candidates at nose tackle.

Barrin Simpson has all-star potential, having led the team with 108 tackles last season. He's clearly the best among a linebacker corps that will look for impact from both 6-1, 270-pound and obviously neckless Bert "Tasmanian Devil" Keys and Jamaal Dinkins.

Junior strong safety Tim Nelson is the veteran starter back in the secondary. Anthony Derricks, a converted free safety, will play left cornerback. Kendell Roberson, a lanky 6-2 junior, started all 11 games at right corner last year. He returns, as does senior Eric Daniel, who looks to be the starter at Derricks' former free safety position.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

As a sophomore, punter Jeff Walker's 45.5-yard average was second in the SEC. He's the class of the SEC in '98. Placekicker Brian Hazelwood led the conference in field goals per game (1.45), and his 53-yarder at the gun beat Memphis in the season opener.

## RECRUITING

Tailback DiCenzo Miller, out of Weir, Miss., scored a state-record 118 touchdowns, and defensive end Conner Stephens (6-5, 235) was a *USA Today* honorable mention All-American. Defensive back Ashley Cooper, who enrolled in January and participated in spring drills, and nose guard Alvin McKinley are a pair of JUCO transfers who could have immediate impacts.

By Chris Harry



## PREDICTED STANDINGS

Mountain

1. Colorado State
  2. Rice
  3. SMU
  4. Air Force
  5. Wyoming
  6. UNLV
  7. TCU
  8. Tulsa
- Pacific
1. Brigham Young
  2. Utah
  3. San Diego State
  4. New Mexico
  5. Fresno State
  6. UTEP
  7. Hawaii
  8. San Jose State

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

### Offensive

**Player of the Year**  
Damon Washington, Colorado State

### Defensive

**Player of the Year**  
Tim Curry, Air Force

### Newcomer

Scott Fuller, Wyoming

## 3 BIGGEST GAMES

- **Sept. 17**  
Colorado State @ Air Force
- **Oct. 31**  
Colorado State @ Rice
- **Nov. 21**  
Utah @ Brigham Young

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Damon Washington, CSU



# WAC

## All-WAC Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: Graham Leigh	6-3/214	Sr.	New Mexico
RB: D. Washington	5-11/193	Sr.	Colorado State
RB: Jonas Lewis	5-9/205	Jr.	San Diego State
WR: Damon Savage	5-10/195	Jr.	Tulsa
WR: Damon Williams	6-3/225	Sr.	UNLV
TE: Sam Mineo	6-3/250	Sr.	UNLV
OL: Anthony Cesario	6-6/308	Sr.	Colorado State
OL: John Tait	6-7/298	Jr.	Brigham Young
OL: Frank Mindrup	6-5/290	Sr.	Air Force
OL: Mike Newell	6-4/285	Sr.	Colorado State
OL: N. Sybrowsky	6-4/327	Sr.	Utah
PK: Tommy Truhe	5-11/201	Jr.	Utah

### [DEFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL: K. Gbaja-Biamila	6-4/235	Jr.	San Diego State
DL: Pene Talamaivao	6-4/313	Sr.	Utah
DL: Jason Smith	6-4/255	Sr.	UTEP
DL: Luke Johnson	6-1/230	Jr.	SMU
LB: Brad Martin	6-1/240	Sr.	Brigham Young
LB: Nate Kvamme	6-0/208	Sr.	Colorado State
LB: Phil Glover	6-0/238	Sr.	Utah
DB: Tim Curry	5-10/175	Sr.	Air Force
DB: Robert Love	5-9/203	Sr.	Utah
DB: Lyle West	6-0/201	Sr.	San Jose State
DB: J. Rhinehart	5-11/190	Sr.	SMU
P: Chad Shrout	6-0/249	Jr.	Hawaii

► Colorado State is blessed with a deep and talented backfield that includes bruising power back Kevin McDougal.



## AIR FORCE Facts

**Coach:** Fisher DeBerry, 15th year, 108-63-1

**'97 Record:** 10-3 (6-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Falcon Stadium, Colorado Springs, Colo. (52,480; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 11 (5 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Chris Gizzi, LB (WAC Pacific Division Defensive Player of the Year); Chuck Parks, OL (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Steve Fernandez, LB (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Frank Staine-Payne, CB (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division)

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Blane Morgan, Sr., 63-123-975 yards, 4 TDs, 6 INTs

**Rushing:** Spanky Gilliam, Sr., 188 carries, 741 yards, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Matt Farmer, Jr., 23, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Farmer, 380

**Tackles:** Jason Sanderson, Sr., 90

**Sacks:** Shawn Thomas, Jr., Bryce Fisher, Sr., 2.5

**Interceptions:** Tim Curry, Sr., 5

**Punting:** Jason Kirkland, Sr., 43.0 avg.

**Kicking:** Alex Wright, Sr., 12-22 FGs (long 49), 24-26 PATs

**Scoring:** Wright, 60 points

### 1998 Schedule

9/5 WAKEFOREST  
9/12 @ UNLV  
9/17 COLORADO ST.  
9/26 @ TCU  
10/3 NEW MEXICO  
10/10 NAVY  
10/24 @ Tulsa  
10/31 SMU  
11/7 @ Army  
11/14 @ Wyoming  
11/21 RICE

### 1997 RESULTS

IDAHO; W, 14-10  
@ Rice; W, 41-14  
UNLV; W, 25-24  
@ Colorado St.; W, 24-0  
SAN DIEGO ST.; W, 24-18  
CITADEL; W, 17-3  
@ Navy; W, 10-7  
FRESNO ST.; L, 20-17  
@ San Jose St.; L, 25-22  
@ Hawaii; W, 34-27  
ARMY; W, 24-0  
WYOMING; W, 14-3  
Oregon; L, 41-13\*

\*Las Vegas Bowl

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: B. Morgan (Sr., 5-9, 192)\* C. Bonds (Jr., 6-0, 155)  
RB: J. Singleton (Sr., 5-9, 187)\* Q. Brown (So., 5-11, 175)  
RB: M. Rillos (Jr., 6-0, 185) S. McKay (So., 5-8, 163)  
FB: S. Gilliam (Sr., 5-9, 217)\* J. Laster (Jr., 6-0, 185)  
WR: D. Newman (Sr., 6-0, 174)\* M. Farmer (Jr., 6-0, 170)  
TE: K. Chandler (Jr., 6-3, 210) C. Jessop (So., 6-5, 230)  
LT: J. Norman (Jr., 6-4, 255) E. Woodring (Sr., 6-4, 281)  
LG: F. Mindrup (Sr., 6-5, 290)\* D. Charters (Jr., 6-4, 270)  
C: M. Dayoc (So., 6-3, 240) P. Lington (Jr., 6-3, 260)  
RG: J. Ingram (Jr., 6-8, 250) D. Hildebrand (So., 6-3, 265)  
RT: M. Roberts (Jr., 6-3, 270) M. Waszak (Sr., 6-3, 265)

#### DEFENSE

DT: S. Thomas (Jr., 6-2, 276)\* B. Sokora (Jr., 6-3, 260)  
NG: J. Haugh (Sr., 6-2, 231) J. Spolsky (Jr., 5-11, 230)  
DT: B. Fisher (Sr., 6-2, 251)\* R. Reinebach (So., 6-2, 240)  
LB: M. Tyler (Sr., 6-1, 221) T. Meidinger (Jr., 6-3, 235)  
LB: C. J. Zanotti (Jr., 6-1, 230) B. Free (Sr., 6-1, 218)  
LB: C. Thorntson (Jr., 6-2, 240) B. Hodgkinson (Jr., 6-1, 190)  
LB: C. Nelson (So., 6-4, 210) J. Martello (Jr., 6-4, 240)  
CB: A. C. Jones (Jr., 5-8, 183) N. Smagh (Jr., 5-11, 183)  
CB: T. Curry (Sr., 5-10, 175)\* T. Metters (So., 6-1, 180)  
SS: C. Warren (Sr., 5-9, 193) J. T. Felton (Jr., 5-11, 190)  
FS: J. Sanderson (Sr., 6-1, 220)\* J. Blevins (Jr., 6-4, 215)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Adams (So., 5-11, 185)\* C. Malcom (So., 5-7, 175)  
P: J. Kirkland (Sr., 6-0, 165)\* S. Gribben (Jr., 6-0, 175)

\* Denotes returning starter

#### MILESTONE

• The Falcons have beaten fellow service academies Army and Navy 26 times in their last 32 games.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.usafa.af.mil/ah



# Air Force



BLANE MORGAN-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Develop a new linebacking corps.
- Be ready for division showdown with Colorado State in mid-September.
- Keep diminutive quarterback Blane Morgan healthy.

The signs of a difficult season were all there: Untested quarterback, challenging schedule, inexperience on both lines. Even Fisher DeBerry was fooled. "We have more concerns than normal this season, a couple of question marks," the Falcons coach said in August just before his 14th season commenced. "It will be interesting to see how we respond."

Interesting? DeBerry must have been enthralled by Air Force's response. Here's how the questions were sorted out, coach: A seven-game winning streak to open the season, a road shutout of eventual WAC champ Colorado State, and a spot in the Las Vegas Bowl. "We probably exceeded some people's expectations," DeBerry deadpanned after an impressive 10-3 march through their schedule.

Sneaking up on people will be a lot more difficult this season, given how many crucial components of the '97 surprise team return. The schedule looks easy, since three of the conference road games are against WAC weaklings UNLV, TCU and Tulsa, which won a combined six conference games in '97. Pencil in the Falcons as a genuine contender for their third WAC title under DeBerry.

The Mountain Division race could be decided as early as Sept. 17, when defending champ CSU visits the Academy. "Shoot, they're loaded," DeBerry said. "They have so much experience together, they could be a lot farther ahead than us." Sound familiar?

#### OFFENSE

Blane Morgan was the major worry for Falcons followers last season, since Air Force's deceptively complex wishbone attack depends heavily on the quarterback. One year later, those fears seem silly. Morgan may have been inexperienced heading into his junior season, but he blossomed into an offensive force reminiscent of his brother Beau, who starred for

three seasons in Colorado Springs. Morgan led the team in rushes, and gained 675 yards on the ground (not counting yardage lost on sacks). His passing was effective, too, but it was his poise and decision-making that earned him second-team All-WAC status.

The Falcons' grind-it-out rushing game, already second in the WAC with a 232-yard average, should only improve since their top four ball carriers return. Chief among them is Spanky Gilliam, who picked up 741 yards to become the first fullback to lead Air Force in rushing since Jason Jones in 1990.

The Falcons are typically small this year, with no key offensive weapons standing more than six feet tall. Discipline, technique and preparation usually make up for Air Force's lack of bulk. But they do have a horse up front, where 6-5, 290-pound guard Frank Mindrup opens gaps with amazing consistency. "He's perfect for what we try to do with the ball," DeBerry said.

#### DEFENSE

Often forgotten in the pinball-offense WAC, the Falcons depended on their defense in '97, and were paid back with an awesome performance. Two opponents were shut out, three others failed to reach double-digits, and nobody scored more than three touchdowns until Oregon did it in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Although Air Force loses seven starters, there is plenty of talent left. The secondary should be especially strong, anchored by cornerback Tim Curry, who intercepted five passes. Air Force's line can rely on a pair of All-WAC-caliber tackles in Bryce Fisher and Shawn Thomas to continue to provide the kind of rushing defense that was the stingiest in the WAC last year. Pass rush could be a weakness, however, and the Falcons have little experience in the linebacking corps.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Jason Kirkland returns for his senior season, and sophomore David Adams emerged from spring practice as the No. 1 placekicker on the depth chart. The real star, however, is kick-blocking specialist Curry, who knocked down five kicks in 1997.

#### RECRUITING

Service academies don't announce their recruits until late summer. However, Iowa prep phenom Matt Mai turned down Notre Dame, Nebraska and Iowa and chose Air Force. Ranked No. 1 academically in his senior class at Gehlen Catholic in Le Mars, Iowa, Mai hopes to play inside linebacker for Air Force.

By Phil Miller





# Colorado State



NATE KVAMME-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Beware of arrogance and overconfidence.
- Ryan Eslinger must be able to run the veteran offense.
- Get revenge for only conference loss by beating dangerous Air Force on the road Sept. 17.

It seems especially fitting that Colorado State will visit Mile High Stadium, home of the Super Bowl champions, for an early-season game. See, the Broncos aren't the only football team in Colorado that appears poised for another title run. Just an hour down I-25, the Colorado State Rams are preparing for the 1998 season as prohibitive favorites to claim their fourth WAC championship in five years.

After the most successful season in school history, one in which they dominated eight of their nine WAC opponents, the Rams return most of their important offensive weapons and a nearly intact defense. "It's hard to beat last year, but the players really feel good about themselves," said coach Sonny Lubick, who in five seasons has turned the Rams into a far better team than anyone in long-suffering Fort Collins ever dared imagine. "I see some hunger. I see some anticipation. I see some guys who think they can be pretty good."

What he doesn't see is a quarterback. Moses Moreno, the Pacific Division's Offensive Player of the Year, has graduated to the NFL, leaving the Rams in the hands of fifth-year senior Ryan Eslinger, who has thrown only 18 passes so far. If he can run the league's best offense, and the veterans on the league's best defense have another outstanding season, the Rams are a plausible top-10 team and a candidate to become the WAC's first Bowl Alliance contestant. Certainly there are no obvious losses on the schedule. "We can't think like that," Lubick said. "We cannot allow complacency to set in."

## OFFENSE

Lubick and his staff, wary of a quarterback controversy like the one that may have slowed Moreno's development three years ago, makes it clear that Eslinger is the Rams' guy. "Ryan's been such a good soldier for four

years, I'd love nothing better than for him to come out and have a successful senior year," said offensive coordinator Steve Fairchild, who likes Eslinger's running ability. But just in case, sophomore Matt Newton will stay ready in practice, and heralded recruit Steve Cutlip might even figure in at some point.

Quarterback may not be such an important position this year, though, not with a pair of 1,000-yard rushers in the backfield. Though they only need one quality ball-carrier to operate their one-back offense, the Rams are blessed with two: Slashing senior Damon Washington, who has posted back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons, and junior power back Kevin McDougal, who busted New Mexico for 255 yards in the WAC Championship game.

Darren Hall leads a deep receiving corps, and the offensive line is dependable, largely due to All-WAC guard Anthony Cesarino's leadership. Cesarino and center Mike Newell didn't allow a sack all year. The Rams often try dual tight ends, so a complement to Derrek Uhl must be found.

## DEFENSE

Even without two-time All-WAC end Adrian Ross, the line is solid. Come to think of it, so is the entire defense, considering 10 starters are back from the WAC's most consistent squad. Junior Clark Haggans, third in the league with 11 sacks, and Joey Porter will lead the pass rush, while four tackles with starting experience will rotate inside.

All three linebackers return, including middle linebacker Willie Taylor, whom Lubick believes is primed for a monster season. First-team All-WAC teammate Nate Kvamme, CSU's leading tackler, will cover the outside. Myron Terry and Erik Olson form the league's best safety tandem, but the corners remain a nagging concern.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Rams are a little nervous about their kicking game. Two sophomores, the erratic Derek Franz and the streaky C.W. Hurst, will battle for placekicking chores, while the only punting candidates are freshmen. Punt-return talent Geoff Turner is gone, but Darran Hall, CSU's best kickoff returner, may replace him.

## RECRUITING

Cutlip, who threw 79 touchdowns and led Arvada West to the Colorado Class 5A championship, turned down Notre Dame and Texas in favor of CSU, an indication of how strong Lubick's program is becoming.

By Phil Miller

## COLORADO STATE Facts

**Coach:** Sonny Lubick, 6th year, 41-19; 61-38 overall

**'97 Record:** 11-2 (7-1 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Hughes Stadium, Fort Collins, Colo. (30,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (6 off., 10 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Moses Moreno, QB (WAC Pacific Division Offensive Player of the Year); Eli Workman, TE (1st-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Adrian Ross, DE (1st-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Geoff Turner, WR (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division)

\*Record revised to 12-1 (7-1) after Colorado was forced to forfeit victory by NCAA

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Ryan Eslinger, Sr., 13-18-144 yards, 1 TD

**Rushing:** Damon Washington, Sr., 180 carries,

1,112 yards, 8 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Darran Hall, Jr., 21, 5 TDs; Corey McCoy, Sr., 21, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Hall, 476

**Tackles:** Nate Kvamme, Sr., 110

**Sacks:** Clark Haggans, Jr., 11

**Interceptions:** Myron Terry, Sr., 6

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Derek Franz, Sr., 7-11 FGs (long 47), 37-41 PATs

**Scoring:** Kevin McDougal, Jr., 84 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

8/29	vs. Michigan St.*
9/5	vs. Colorado**
9/12	@ Nevada
9/17	@ Air Force
9/26	UNLV
10/3	@ UTEP
10/10	TULSA
10/17	@ New Mexico St.
10/24	TCU
10/31	@ Rice
11/7	WYOMING
11/14	@ SMU

\*BCA Football Classic

\*\*at Mile High Stadium

## 1997 RESULTS

NEVADA; W, 45-13
@ Colorado; L, 31-21
@ Utah St.; W, 35-24
AIR FORCE; L, 24-0
HAWAII; W, 63-0
@ San Jose St.; W, 55-20
@ Wyoming; W, 14-7
TULSA; W, 44-8
@ UNLV; W, 45-19
FRESNO ST.; W, 41-3
@ San Diego St.; W, 38-17
vs. New Mexico; W, 41-13*
vs. Missouri; W, 35-24**

\*WAC Championship

\*\*Holiday Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: R. Eslinger (Sr., 6-2, 216)	M. Newton (So., 6-3, 205)
FB: D. Washington (Sr., 5-11, 193)*	K. McDougal (Jr., 6-0, 197)
HB: C. McCoy (Sr., 5-9, 195)	A. Hoffman (Jr., 5-11, 170)
WR: D. Hall (Jr., 5-11, 180)*	D. Davis (So., 5-10, 165)
WR: F. Rice (So., 6-0, 165)	P. Rebstock (Fr., 5-9, 176)
TE: D. Uhl (Sr., 6-4, 249)*	N. Schaumburg (So., 6-4, 255)
LT: B. Saipaia (Jr., 6-3, 293)*	C. Brooks (Fr., 6-2, 275)
LG: J. Borvansky (So., 6-1, 282)	B. Lancaster (Fr., 6-4, 285)
C: M. Newell (Sr., 6-4, 285)*	J. Koontz (Fr., 6-6, 265)
RG: A. Cesarino (Sr., 6-6, 308)*	D. Forbes (Jr., 6-2, 305)
RT: T. Stuber (So., 6-5, 335)	D. Shohet (Fr., 6-6, 300)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Porter (Sr., 6-3, 235)	E. Vaughn (Sr., 6-3, 220)
DT: R. Cieslinski (Jr., 6-4, 293)*	C. Wolf (So., 6-4, 240)
DT: J. Bennett (So., 6-2, 265)*	G. Pollard (Jr., 6-0, 265)*
DE: C. Haggans (Jr., 6-4, 225)*	G. Graue (Fr., 6-4, 225)
LB: N. Kvamme (Sr., 6-0, 208)*	T. Colacion (Fr., 6-2, 224)
LB: W. Taylor (Sr., 6-0, 223)*	U. Tuitele (Jr., 6-2, 227)
LB: R. Crowell (Jr., 6-3, 230)*	L. Mallory (So., 6-1, 235)
CB: J. Craft (Sr., 5-10, 170)	J. Jones (Jr., 5-8, 175)
CB: D. Randle (Sr., 6-0, 182)*	T. Gibson (So., 5-11, 174)
SS: E. Olson (Jr., 6-1, 198)*	J. Howell (Jr., 6-0, 190)
FS: M. Terry (Sr., 6-3, 206)*	A. Engelstad (So., 5-10, 190)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Franz (Sr., 6-1, 184)*	C.W. Hurst (So., 5-10, 165)
P: J. Skidmore (Fr., 5-11, 180)	B. Svoboda (Fr., 6-1, 150)

\*Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

•Colorado State's nine-game winning streak is the nation's fourth-longest current one, behind Nebraska (14), Michigan (12) and UCLA (10).

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.colostate.edu/athletics



## RICE Facts

**Coach:** Ken Hatfield, 5th year, 21-22-1; 134-84-4 overall  
**'97 Record:** 7-4 (5-3 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas (70,000; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 15 (5 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Andy Clifton, DE (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Chad Nelson, QB (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Benji Wood, FB

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jeremy Bates, Jr., 5-18-59 yards, 4 INTs  
**Rushing:** Michael Perry, Sr., 162 carries, 1,034 yards, 10 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Jason Blackwell, Sr., 14  
**Receiving (Yards):** Blackwell, 210  
**Tackles:** Rashad Reynolds, Sr., 83  
**Sacks:** Judd Smith, Jr., 5  
**Interceptions:** LaDoughyous McCalla, Sr., 5  
**Punting:** Scott Grimes, Jr., 39.9 avg.  
**Kicking:** Grimes, 8-13 FGs (long 45), 32-39 PATs  
**Scoring:** Perry, 66 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 SMU  
 9/12 @ Purdue  
 9/19 N'WESTERN  
 9/26 @ Texas  
 10/10 @ San Jose St.  
 10/17 TULSA  
 10/24 @ Wyoming  
 10/31 COLORADO ST.  
 11/7 @ TCU  
 11/14 UNLV  
 11/21 @ Air Force

### 1997 RESULTS

AIR FORCE; L, 41-12  
 @ Tulane; W, 30-24  
 @ Northwestern; W, 40-34  
 TEXAS; L, 38-31  
 @ Tulsa; W, 42-24  
 BYU; W, 27-14  
 NEW MEXICO; W, 35-23  
 @ SMU; L, 24-6  
 TCU; W, 38-19  
 @ Utah; L, 31-14  
 UTEP; W, 31-13

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: J. Bates (Jr., 5-10, 170) C. Richardson (Jr., 5-11, 200)  
 RB: M. Perry (Sr., 5-9, 200)\* A. Griffin (So., 5-10, 185)  
 FB: C. Leschber (Jr., 6-1, 220) J. Tyler (Fr., 6-0, 195)  
 HB: K. Gordon (Sr., 6-0, 210) D. Gary (Fr., 6-0, 185)  
 WR: J. Blackwell (Sr., 6-0, 170)\* M. Webber (Fr., 5-10, 165)  
 TE: B. Manning (Fr., 6-5, 230) A. Bassett (Fr., 6-4, 225)  
 LT: R. Beavan (So., 6-2, 285) A. Mowry (Fr., 6-5, 235)  
 LG: N. Gray (Jr., 6-3, 275)\* H. Fowler (Fr., 6-3, 285)  
 C: M. Viator (Sr., 6-0, 275)\* M. Baldwin (Jr., 6-2, 275)  
 RG: C. Torello (Sr., 6-1, 300)\* C. Bryant (Fr., 6-5, 295)  
 RT: A. Sandoval (Fr., 6-2, 285) S. Jackson (Jr., 6-2, 285)

#### DEFENSE

DE: T. Melton (Sr., 6-2, 235)\* C. Johnson (Fr., 6-2, 220)  
 DT: J. Smith (Jr., 6-1, 280)\* J. Jackson (So., 6-3, 250)  
 NG: A. Hughes (Sr., 6-4, 285)\* C. Collum (Jr., 5-11, 225)  
 DE: R. Smith (Fr., 6-3, 270) J. Duncan (Sr., 6-2, 240)  
 LB: B. Reynolds (Sr., 6-0, 235)\* J. B. Thompson (Fr., 6-1, 210)  
 LB: T. Benford (Sr., 5-11, 215)\* W. Kubesch (Jr., 6-1, 225)  
 LB: L. Ruffin (Jr., 5-10, 195)\* B. Wulf (So., 6-0, 190)  
 CB: L. D. McCalla (Sr., 5-9, 185)\* K. Smith (Fr., 5-8, 160)  
 CB: A. Sadler (So., 5-10, 180)\* J. McMillan (So., 6-0, 170)  
 SS: T. Ortega (So., 6-3, 205)\* D. Dawson (Fr., 6-1, 180)  
 FS: L. D. Smith (So., 6-2, 190) J. Hebert (Fr., 6-0, 185)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

P: S. Grimes (Jr., 6-1, 195)\* V. Young (Sr., 6-1, 190)  
 K: S. Grimes (Jr., 6-1, 195)\* D. Crabtree (Fr., 6-4, 210)

\* Denotes returning starter

#### MILESTONES

- Rice hasn't played in a bowl game since 1961.
- Rice's back-to-back 7-4 records are its best consecutive seasons since 1960-61.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.ruf.rice.edu/~ricesid/



# Rice



MICHAEL PERRY-RB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- New starters at QB and FB must gel early in the triple option.
- The defense needs to toughen while the offense finds itself.
- The offense must again control the clock.

Head coach Ken Hatfield might not receive the kind of attention that he previously had at Arkansas and Clemson, but his accomplishments are certainly noteworthy. The nation's smallest division I-A school (2,600 students) once again managed another successful season in '97, going 7-4 for the second straight year. The Owls twice were in a position to take a strong hold of the WAC Mountain Division, but wins against BYU at home and eventual Mountain champ New Mexico on the road were wiped out by defeats to SMU and Utah. Rice almost saw its first postseason play in 36 years. Limited by relatively poor facilities and strict academic standards, Hatfield has built a winner and a gate attraction in Houston. To remain a winner the Owls will have to scratch and claw, what with the loss of some key personnel and a tough non-conference schedule.

### OFFENSE

Rice's triple-option running attack, the spread option, again took the team to new statistical heights. School records were established for yards in a season (3,660) and yards per carry (5.3) as running plays outnumbered passing attempts an incredible 10 to one. Rice's passing game ranked 110 out of 112, while the running game was second in the nation only to Nebraska.

Chad Nelson, who last year broke his own school record for rushing yards by a quarterback with 953, and fullback Benji Wood, who gained 936 yards and led the WAC in touchdowns with 16, have moved on. Returning is A-back Michael Perry, a senior, who as the third option had fewer carries than both Nelson and Wood but led the team—and the WAC—with 103.4 yards per game. His 4.3 40 speed was also used on special teams, ranking him fourth in the nation in all-purpose yardage. Replacing Nelson is Jeremy Bates, a

junior, who transferred two years ago after spending a season at Tennessee backing up Peyton Manning. His main target in the infrequently-used receiving crew is split end Jason Blackwell, whose 14 receptions last year were 10 more than anyone else. The line returns three of five, including senior guard Charles Torello, a former walk-on who has started all 33 games in his Rice career.

### DEFENSE

Like most WAC teams, the Owls struggled on defense, ranking 75th in the nation in yards allowed but better (65th) in points given up.

The unit loses one of its best, end Andy Clifton, but retains nine.

The defensive line returns seniors Terrence Melton (rush end) Andrew Hughes (tackle), and junior nose guard Judd Smith, who registered five sacks and 11 tackles for losses. Replacing Clifton will be redshirt freshman Ryan Smith, who has the size at 6-3, 270. The linebacking unit returns intact and features senior Rashad Reynolds, who led the team in tackles last season and has started 22 consecutive games. He registered 15 tackles for losses in '97, the third-highest total in school history. The leader of the secondary is senior corner LaDoughyous McCalla, who is one of the top cover men in the WAC. The two-time returning starter was an All-WAC Mountain second-teamer and received conference player of the week honors after game-saving end zone interceptions against both Tulane and New Mexico.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Junior Scott Grimes does double duty. He averaged 39.9 yards per punt and hit on eight of 13 field goals while struggling at 32 of 39 with PATs. Perry enters '98 as the Rice career record holder in kickoff returns (78) and yards (1,697), and ranks third in punt returns (47) and yards (501).

### RECRUITING

Rice's high academic standards have forced a little resourcefulness on the part of the football program, which looked to Stanford University for the names of potential recruits. Rice takes a long look at those who don't make the Stanford cut. Although freshmen typically don't see a lot of snaps, if any, for the Owls, a pretty good class came in '98. Running back Luke Barrett, 6-2, 212; wide receiver Gilbert Okoronkwo, 6-3 with 4.5 speed; and two Texans, center Ryan Pontbriand, 6-2, 250 and defensive end Nick Sabula, 6-3, 235.

By Paul M. Johnson





# SMU



CHRIS SANDERS-QB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Throw the ball more to keep defenses from keying on running game.
- Keep quarterback Chris Sanders healthy; backups are all freshmen.
- Develop a pass rush from mostly inexperienced front seven.

Perhaps the best evidence that SMU football is regaining its foothold in the Dallas sports scene was found not on the gridiron but in a campus conference room. That's where university officials proudly announced that in late August, 2000, the Mustangs will open their brand new, 32,000-seat, \$53.8 million on-campus football stadium. "It's a fabulous statement by this university that football is once again an important part of campus life," second-year coach Mike Cavan said. "Now we have to make sure the football team is as good as the stadium by the time it's ready."

Cavan took great strides in his first season in Dallas to do so, leading the Ponies to their first winning record in more than a decade. He made wholesale changes, scrapping the run-and-shoot for a powerful I-formation rushing offense and installing an aggressive 4-3 defense. It paid off with a five-game winning streak that would have reached six if not for a stunning season-ending loss to pitiful TCU. "We learned to play as a team and to fight the entire ballgame to win," Cavan said.

## OFFENSE

Cavan took some criticism from SMU boosters who, conditioned to expect a wide-open passing game, grew bored with all the hand-offs, especially after the Mustangs opened by losing four of their first five. However, by season's end they had changed their tune. In addition to evolving into the fifth-best rushing attack in the WAC, Southern Methodist cut its turnovers to just 14 and its sacks to only 13.

Cavan developed quarterback Chris Sanders, now a sophomore, by alternating him with Ramon Flanagan most of the season. Good move, since Sanders is now the only experienced quarterback on campus. Sanders, who had ankle surgery over the win-

ter but should be fine by the fall, and sophomore Tony Newsome, SMU's leading receiver as a freshman, could form a dangerous combo for three more seasons. "We have to be a little more balanced offensively," said Cavan. "We need to throw the ball a little bit more. But at the same time, we're not giving up on our running game. That's our forte."

It certainly is as long as senior tailback Kelsey Adams is around. After winning a starting job at midseason, Adams reeled off five consecutive 100-yard games. Adams, Rodrick Phillips and fullback Jeff Pennington should form an excellent backfield.

The offensive line, already huge with an average of 6-4, 303 pounds per man, should be even deeper with the return of guard Bill Holder, who missed nine games after suffering a knee injury in the season's second game.

## DEFENSE

Look closely at that five-game winning streak and it becomes apparent what happened. Four opponents were held below 20 points during the span—the critical level for the Mustangs, who were 6-0 when they scored 20 and 0-5 when they didn't. "We learned the value of aggressiveness," Cavan said. Six starters are gone, however, including linebacker Chris Bordano. Junior Jason Simonton must step into his role, alongside returning starter Tyree Taylor.

Luke Johnson, who registered 10 sacks, will provide stability to a relatively inexperienced defensive line. But tackle Dan Merritt and end Mercury Hall, both seniors, earned playing time as backups in '97, so Cavan is optimistic they are ready to claim starting berths.

The secondary is largely in senior hands, with cornerback Jacoby Rhinehart the most notable returnee. Donald Mitchell will switch from corner to strong safety.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Roy Rios was a lifesaver as a freshman, providing dependable (12 of 15) and long (including a 52-yarder) field-goal kicking. This season, SMU needs that sort of help from freshman punter Adam Walterscheid, though Rios is slated to handle punting duties to start the season.

## RECRUITING

Another sign of SMU's progress: a nationally sought recruit chose the Mustangs. Linebacker Marcus Mosley of Dallas' South Oak Cliff High, listed among the top 100 recruits in the nation, decided to stay at home. He could play as a freshman, as will Walterscheid.

By Phil Miller

## SMU Facts

**Coach:** Mike Cavan, 2nd year, 6-5; 73-54-2 overall  
**'97 Record:** 6-5 (5-3 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Cotton Bowl, Dallas (68,252; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 13 (7 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Chris Bordano, LB (WAC Mountain Division Defensive Player of Year); Ramon Flanagan, QB; Donte Womack, RB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Chris Sanders, So., 57-128-678 yards, 6 TDs, 4 INTs  
**Rushing:** Kelsey Adams, Sr., 125 carries, 660 yards, 9 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Tony Newsome, So., 20, 1 TD  
**Receiving (Yards):** Damond Blueitt, Jr., 232  
**Tackles:** Luke Johnson, Jr., 87  
**Sacks:** Johnson, 10  
**Interceptions:** Jacoby Rhinehart, Sr., 4  
**Punting:** None  
**Kicking:** Roy Rios, So., 12-15 FGs (long 52), 25-27 PATs  
**Scoring:** Rios, 61 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Rice  
 9/12 TULANE  
 9/19 @ Arkansas  
 9/26 MISSISSIPPI  
 10/3 @ Hawaii  
 10/10 @ Wyoming  
 10/17 TCU  
 10/24 UNLV  
 10/31 @ Air Force  
 11/7 TULSA  
 11/14 COLORADOST.  
 11/21 @ Navy

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Mississippi; L, 23-15  
 @ Arkansas; W, 31-9  
 NAVY; L, 46-16  
 BYU; L, 19-16  
 @ New Mexico; L, 22-15  
 @ Utah; W, 20-19  
 WYOMING; W, 22-17  
 RICE; W, 24-6  
 UTEP; W, 28-14  
 @ Tulsa; W, 42-41  
 TCU; L, 21-18

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: C. Sanders (So., 6-0, 225) R. Holdren (Fr., 6-2, 185)  
 TB: R. Phillips (Jr., 6-0, 205) K. Adams (Sr., 5-10, 205)\*  
 FB: J. Pennington (Jr., 6-1, 245)\* R. Phillips (Jr., 6-0, 205)  
 WR: T. Newsome (So., 6-2, 200)\* D. Blueitt (Jr., 6-3, 215)  
 WR: A. Johnson (Sr., 5-9, 180) J. Kreimborg (So., 5-11, 185)  
 TE: C. Snowden (Sr., 6-5, 240)\* C. Schavira (So., 6-2, 250)  
 LT: J. Chavira (Jr., 6-4, 300)\* J. Slaten (Fr., 6-6, 275)  
 LG: T. Bandy (Jr., 6-5, 300)\* C. Fross (Fr., 6-5, 270)  
 C: A. Adami (Jr., 6-3, 305)\* R. Nichols (So., 6-3, 255)  
 RG: N. Mandungu (Jr., 6-2, 290) B. Holder (Jr., 6-6, 320)  
 RT: J. Morgan (Sr., 6-4, 290) J. Erxleben (So., 6-5, 290)

### DEFENSE

DE: M. Hall (Sr., 6-2, 240) J. Faucett (Jr., 6-2, 220)  
 DT: B. Perkins (Sr., 6-1, 260) A. Pahulu (So., 6-0, 265)  
 DT: D. Merritt (Sr., 6-2, 275) C. Post (Fr., 6-3, 260)  
 DE: L. Johnson (Jr., 6-1, 230)\* S. Williams (Fr., 6-4, 235)  
 LB: T. Taylor (Sr., 6-2, 210)\* R. Coats (Jr., 5-11, 215)  
 LB: J. Simonton (Jr., 5-11, 230) C. Riley (Fr., 6-0, 225)  
 LB: D. Jefferson (So., 6-1, 225) C. Riley (Fr., 6-0, 225)  
 CB: J. Rhinehart (Sr., 5-11, 190)\* C. Richardson (So., 5-8, 170)  
 CB: D. Evans (Sr., 5-10, 185) D. Mitchell (Sr., 5-10, 190)  
 SS: D. Mitchell (Sr., 5-10, 190)\* R. Cooper (Sr., 6-0, 210)  
 FS: T. Hart (Jr., 5-11, 185)\* R. Brown (Jr., 6-1, 190)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: R. Rios (So., 5-10, 190)\* A. Walterscheid (Fr., 6-0, 190)  
 P: R. Rios (So., 5-10, 190) A. Walterscheid (Fr., 6-0, 190)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONES

- SMU's five-game winning streak was its longest since 1985.
- The 1998 schedule includes games against two conference foes—Colorado State and Hawaii—that SMU has never played.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.smu.edu/~athletics



## TCU Facts

**Coach:** Dennis Franchione, 1st year; 113-55-2 overall  
**'97 Record:** 1-10 (1-7 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Amon G. Carter Stadium, Fort Worth, Texas (44,830; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (8 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Chance McCarty, DE (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Scott Taft, LB (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Michael Reeder, PK (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Mark Cortez, C (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division)

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jeff Dover, Jr., 97-199-1,063 yards, 5 TDs, 4 INTs

**Rushing:** Basil Mitchell, Sr., 159 carries, 719 yards, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Torrie Simmons, Jr., 27, 1 TD

**Receiving (Yards):** Simmons, 314

**Tackles:** Joseph Phipps, Sr., 91

**Sacks:** Aaron Schobel, So., 9

**Interceptions:** Barry Browning, Sr., 2

**Punting:** Royce Huffman, Jr., 41.6 avg.

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** LaDainian Tomlinson, So., 36 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Iowa St.  
 9/12 OKLAHOMA  
 9/26 AIR FORCE  
 10/3 VANDERBILT  
 10/10 FRESNO STATE  
 10/17 @ SMU  
 10/24 @ Colorado State  
 10/31 WYOMING  
 11/7 RICE  
 11/14 @ Tulsa  
 11/21 @ UNLV

### 1997 RESULTS

@ Kansas; L, 17-10  
 UTAH; L, 32-18  
 @ Vanderbilt; L, 40-16  
 NORTH CAROLINA; L, 31-10  
 @ UNLV; L, 21-19  
 TULSA; L, 33-22  
 @ BYU; L, 31-10  
 NEW MEXICO; L, 40-10  
 @ Rice; L, 38-19  
 @ UTEP; L, 24-17  
 SMU; W, 21-18

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: P. Batteaux (Jr., 6-0, 195) J. Dover (Jr., 6-2, 190)\*  
 TB: L. Tomlinson (So., 5-11, 205) B. Mitchell (Sr., 5-11, 192)\*  
 FB: L. Porch (Sr., 5-11, 220)\* L. Williams (Sr., 6-0, 228)  
 WR: R. Huffman (Jr., 6-0, 192) T. Simmons (Jr., 6-3, 205)\*  
 WR: C. James (So., 6-3, 190) T. Moore (Sr., 6-2, 182)\*  
 TE: J. Hill (So., 6-3, 210) B. Gross (Jr., 6-6, 250)  
 LT: R. Sanders (Sr., 6-4, 285)\* P. Harmon (Jr., 6-8, 290)  
 LG: M. Keathley (So., 6-4, 255) R. Wallace (So., 6-4, 320)  
 C: G. Davis (Sr., 6-4, 300) J. Garner (So., 6-5, 265)  
 RG: V. Payne (Fr., 6-1, 290) S. Ladewig (So., 6-3, 275)\*  
 RT: D. Bobo (So., 6-5, 285)\* J. Millican (So., 6-6, 280)

#### DEFENSE

DE: K. Hunt (Sr., 6-3, 225) R. Lacey (Sr., 6-1, 260)  
 DT: S. Worhtern (So., 6-1, 300) K. Williams (Sr., 6-4, 260)  
 NT: J.W. Wilson (Jr., 6-4, 278)\* S. Ashley (So., 6-4, 275)  
 DE: A. Schobel (So., 6-4, 242)\* L. Dunlap (Sr., 6-3, 225)  
 LB: M. Mullins (Jr., 5-11, 230) C. Mortensen (Sr., 6-2, 230)  
 LB: J. Phipps (Sr., 6-2, 215)\* S. Brazzell (So., 6-0, 220)  
 CB: A. Bruce (Sr., 5-11, 175) G. Walls (So., 6-0, 185)  
 CB: B. Browning (Sr., 5-9, 190)\* L. Hollingquest (So., 6-0, 180)  
 WS: R. Hunt (Jr., 6-0, 210) L. Burdine (Jr., 5-9, 180)  
 SS: E. Anderson (Sr., 6-1, 200)\* B. Gary (So., 5-10, 190)  
 FS: C. Fuller (Jr., 5-11, 185)\* L. Veale (So., 5-11, 188)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: C. Kaylakie (Fr., 6-1, 185) R. Huffman (Jr., 6-0, 192)  
 P: R. Huffman (Jr., 6-0, 192)\* M. Cleavinger (Jr., 6-0, 170)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONES

• TCU played 11 freshmen and 12 redshirt freshmen in 1997, and five true freshmen became starters.  
 • The Horned Frogs converted only 41 of their 164 third downs, a WAC-worst 25 percent.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.tcu.edu/ath

# TCU TCU



JEFF DOVER-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Choose a quarterback who can run the hybrid Lobo-style offense.
- More concentration, and fewer distractions, penalties and mental errors.
- Keep the hobbled offensive line intact.

Dennis Franchione knows big rebuilding jobs. He swears this isn't one. No, seriously.

Ravaged by injuries, distracted by all manner of problems, plagues and penalties, the Horned Frogs crashed in '97, losing their first 10 games, their coach and their self-esteem. TCU recruited Franchione, who resurrected a moribund football program at New Mexico.

"When I got to New Mexico, I said this was going to be a marathon. [TCU] is going to be a much faster race," the new coach told his team. "The bad years aren't going to be 1-10 when we get things stabilized. The bad years are going to be 6-5, and the good ones are going to be a lot better than that."

For one thing, there have to be fewer distractions than last year. Suspensions for off-the-field problems cost TCU two of its more experienced players, then an offensive lineman was dismissed after an alleged positive test for steroids. After seven games, seventh-year coach Pat Sullivan quit, effective at the end of the season, and then had to suspend three more players for breaking team rules.

Obviously, few teams need a fresh start as badly as TCU, and Franchione will bring one. He'll also bring along his trademark offense, a distinctive concoction that mixes option plays with some dropback passing.

### OFFENSE

Franchione's offense requires an athletic quarterback, someone who can pass on the run or tuck the ball away and head downfield. The new coach didn't think Jeff Dover, despite his 1,063-yard sophomore season, was the man for his system, and so he named junior receiver Patrick Batteaux as his starter. Batteaux is a speedster who caught 27 passes last year but also played quarterback in high

school. "He's probably more athletic than anyone else we have," Franchione said. If Batteaux falters, another possibility is freshman Sean Stilley, who excelled in high school running the wishbone. "I learned a long time ago never to assume that a freshman will be ready to start," Franchione said. "But Sean might. ... He'll excel in our offense because he is a mobile, athletic quarterback."

The Horned Frogs have a nice tailback duo in Basil Mitchell, who gained 719 yards despite gradually decreasing playing time, and sophomore LaDainian Tomlinson, who showed flashes but also fumbled too much.

The offensive line, in constant turmoil after injuries struck nearly everyone, should be better as three starters return.

### DEFENSE

The most obvious change will be to eliminate a linebacker and add a safety, a standard nickel package that Franchione has found effective in a passing-oriented league.

It helps that two of TCU's best tacklers, linebacker Joseph Phipps and linebacker-turned-safety Eric Anderson, return for their senior seasons. It also helps that the Horned Frogs' defense wasn't nearly as bad as the team's record. TCU's 353.8-yard average was better than seven other WAC schools, including bowl contenders BYU and Rice. And only two opponents reached 40 points, meaning the Horned Frogs weren't getting blown out.

The secondary figures to be the biggest problem, since TCU ranked next-to-last in passing defense and only intercepted seven passes. But Reggie Hunt, whose season was scrambled by a failed attempt to make him a running back, and sophomore LaVar Veale give the Horned Frogs some experience.

The pass rush should remain relatively strong, thanks to defensive end Aaron Schobel, who recorded nine sacks in 1997.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Royce Huffman had plenty of work last year, but managed to excel, averaging 41.6 yards on 81 punts. The Horned Frogs may have to depend on a freshman placekicker, Chris Kaylakie, to replace All-WAC kicker Michael Reeder.

### RECRUITING

In addition to Stilley, Franchione was happy to convince defensive back DeMario Wesley to stay in Fort Worth. According to the coach, Wesley was the second-fastest recruit in Texas and could play right away.

By Phil Miller





CHARLIE HIGGINS-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Boost badly needed confidence with early-season victories.
- Reduce the 33 turnovers by half, at least.
- Learn each other's names quickly on defense, then plug up those up-the-gut rushing lanes.

Nobody has coached more football games in Tulsa history than Dave Rader. Nobody has lost as many, either, and Rader knows what that means. "There's some urgency about this season, certainly," said Rader, whose contract expires at the end of the season.

"As a coach, you go into every season trying to win the next game. I'm adamant that our staff is doing... the very best job that can be done."

But after a 2-9 season, Tulsa's worst since 1969, Rader understands that Golden Hurricane fans are growing frustrated with his team's mediocrity. Having had just one winning year in his 10 at Tulsa, Rader has turned to an old coaching tradition to beef up the Golden Hurricane's chances: JUCO recruits. Ten JUCO players have been added to the roster, seven of them on defense, in hopes of shoring up a unit that surrendered an astounding 309 rushing yards per game—over 120 more than any other WAC school. "The plan is for these guys to come in and give us some maturity and experience," Rader said. "Even if they don't all start right away, the competition for jobs will make us a better team."

On the bright side, Rader welcomes back a 2,000-yard passer, a 1,000-yard rusher, and a pair of All-WAC receivers. However, the offense must do a better job of holding on to the ball. Against Colorado State, the Golden Hurricane turned the ball over on their first six possessions. That's no way to save a coach's job.

## OFFENSE

Wes Caswell went down with a knee injury while making the first catch of his senior season and missed the entire year. After successfully petitioning the NCAA for a sixth year with the team, the all-conference receiver is back, joining Damon Savage in the most feared pass-catching duo in a passing league.

Given his 2,003 passing yards and nine touchdowns, John Fitzgerald would seem the obvious choice to get them the ball. But Fitzgerald's 13 interceptions led Rader to try backup Michael Wall occasionally, too. Fitzgerald is still No. 1 heading into the fall, but Rader warns that "he needs to be effective more consistently.... When he's on, he's really good, but we need to see that more often."

Tulsa may also see more of tailback Charlie Higgins, who averaged better than five yards per carry in his 1,043-yard, 11-TD sophomore season. The offensive line is decent but thin, and with Michael Ruhl having graduated, it lacks a leader.

Eliminating turnovers is Rader's top priority. "We have to get them reduced. Whether it's a concentration problem or technique or whatever, we will address it," he said. "Our problems on offense were a Tulsa thing more than an opponent thing."

## DEFENSE

The Golden Hurricane topped their 1996 No. 107 ranking in rushing defense by dropping to No. 112—dead last in Division I-A. They couldn't stop the pass, either, ranking 16th in the WAC. There's no better reason for a shakeup, and Rader obliged. Seven JUCO defenders have been imported and some starters have lost their jobs. However, one bright spot is linebacker Phillip Abode, who showed signs of stardom as a freshman and looks like a four-year starter. Tulsa also gets back its best cover cornerback this season. Marshall Gordon sliced his forearm open in 1997 while hauling soda machines on his summer job. After surgery, he is ready to beef up a squad that allowed an average of 492 yards per game.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Fitzgerald is the punter, too, so opponents must be prepared for a quick kick if the Golden Hurricane gets in a hole. Freshman Casey Lipscomb is ready should Fitzgerald get hurt or tired. Kicker Derek Nordstrom must try to replace the booming leg of James Anderson, though Tulsa kicked just five field goals in '98.

## RECRUITING

"To be blunt, we've had difficulty in the past because of the difficulty of transferring credits to Tulsa," Rader said. That rule has changed, helping bring 10 JUCO veterans among a 30-man recruiting class that is long on depth, short on stars. Best bet to help right away: linebacker Donovan Laviness, from Northeast Oklahoma A&M.

By Phil Miller

## TULSA Facts

**Coach:** Dave Rader, 11th year, 44-67-1

**'97 Record:** 2-9 (2-6 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Skelly Stadium, Tulsa, Okla. (40,385; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (7 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Michael Ruhl, OT (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Levi Gillen, S (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division); James Anderson, PK

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** John Fitzgerald, Sr., 139-256-2,003 yards, 9 TDs, 13 INTs

**Rushing:** Charlie Higgins, Jr., 202 carries, 1,043 yards, 11 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Damon Savage, Jr., 66, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Savage, 1,084

**Tackles:** Ashon Farley, So., 60

**Sacks:** Farley, 2

**Interceptions:** Phillip Abode, So., Adonis Peil, Sr., 1

**Punting:** John Fitzgerald, Sr., 38.2 avg.

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** Higgins, 72 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 SW MISSOURI  
9/12 OKLAHOMA ST.  
9/26 @ West Virginia  
10/3 SAN DIEGO ST.  
10/10 @ Colorado St.  
10/17 @ Rice  
10/24 AIR FORCE  
10/31 @ UNLV  
11/7 @ SMU  
11/14 TCU  
11/21 WYOMING

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Cincinnati; L, 33-24  
@ Iowa; L, 54-16  
MISSOURI; L, 42-21  
RICE; L, 42-24  
UTEP; L, 33-18  
@ TCU; W, 33-22  
@ Colorado St.; L, 44-8  
UTAH; W, 21-14  
@ BYU; L, 49-39  
SMU; L, 42-41  
@ New Mexico; L, 51-13

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Fitzgerald (Sr., 6-3, 225)\* M. Wall (So., 6-4, 200)  
TB: C. Higgins (Jr., 5-9, 211)\* R. Williams (Sr., 5-10, 233)  
WB: J. Mosley (Jr., 5-9, 203) K. Isham (So., 6-1, 220)  
WR: W. Caswell (Sr., 5-8, 183) J. Smith (Jr., 5-11, 188)\*  
WR: D. Savage (Jr., 5-10, 195)\* J. Brister (Sr., 6-1, 188)  
TE: T. Fisher (Sr., 6-2, 280) P. Muther (Jr., 6-2, 254)  
LT: M. Bing (Sr., 6-4, 280) D. Douglas (Jr., 6-4, 252)  
LG: A. Ratica (Jr., 6-5, 287) J. C. Kelley (Fr., 6-5, 353)  
C: S. Schiller (Sr., 6-5, 287)\* J. Jett (Jr., 6-4, 233)  
RG: S. Wiedower (So., 6-3, 274) B. Weeks (Jr., 6-6, 314)\*  
RT: J. Mills (Sr., 6-5, 308)\* J. Stoetznier (Fr., 6-5, 305)

### DEFENSE

DE: C. Odum (So., 6-4, 240) C. Hopkins (Jr., 6-4, 246)  
DT: R. Farley (Sr., 6-3, 281)\* J. Lyon (So., 6-4, 265)  
DT: T. Martin (Sr., 6-4, 264)\* L. Vick (Fr., 6-3, 235)  
DE: N. Whitworth (Sr., 6-4, 235) K. Carey (So., 6-1, 246)  
LB: P. Abode (So., 6-1, 212)\* R. Cook (Fr., 6-3, 215)  
LB: A. Blackmon (Sr., 5-11, 219) J. McClure (Jr., 6-2, 221)  
LB: A. Farley (So., 6-0, 219) L. Walker (So., 5-11, 229)\*  
CB: M. Gordon (Sr., 5-11, 188) S. Lusk (So., 5-11, 171)\*  
CB: T. Franz (Jr., 6-1, 182)\* F. Johnson (So., 5-11, 188)  
SS: A. Ladner (Sr., 5-11, 201) S. Braggs (Jr., 5-7, 196)  
FS: E. Armstrong (Jr., 5-9, 194) A. Peil (Sr., 5-11, 202)\*

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Nordstrom (Jr., 6-0, 209) C. Lipscomb (Fr., 5-11, 233)  
P: J. Fitzgerald (Sr., 6-3, 225)\* C. Lipscomb (Fr., 5-11, 233)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Wes Caswell needs 444 receiving yards to pass former NFL great Steve Largent for third-place on Tulsa's career list.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

[www.utulsa.edu/athletics/goldathletics.html](http://www.utulsa.edu/athletics/goldathletics.html)



## UNLV Facts

**Coach:** Jeff Horton, 5th year, 13-33; 20-37 overall  
**'97 Record:** 3-8 (2-6 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, Nev. (32,000; artificial)  
**Returning Starters:** 19 (8 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Scott Patton, LB (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Charles Fisher, DT; Ben Glidewell, LT

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jon Denton, Jr., 199-374-2,586 yards, 18 TDs, 17 INTs  
**Rushing:** Coury Hankins, Jr., 127 carries, 641 yards, 2 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Damon Williams, Sr., 61, 5 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Len Ware, Jr., 818  
**Tackles:** Greg Gales, Sr., 108  
**Sacks:** Talance Sawyer, Sr., 7  
**Interceptions:** Randy Black, So., 3  
**Punting:** Joe Kristosik, Jr., 37.8 avg.  
**Kicking:** Tim O'Reilly, Sr., 9-13 FGs (long 37), 32-34 PATs  
**Scoring:** O'Reilly, 59 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Northwestern  
 9/12 AIR FORCE  
 9/19 @ Wisconsin  
 9/26 @ Colorado St.  
 10/3 NEVADA  
 10/10 @ BYU  
 10/17 WYOMING  
 10/24 @ SMU  
 10/31 TULSA  
 11/14 @ Rice  
 11/21 TCU

### 1997 RESULTS

@ Nevada; L, 31-14  
 @ Air Force; L, 25-24  
 HAWAII; W, 25-15  
 ILLINOIS STATE; W, 41-6  
 @ USC; L, 35-21  
 TCU; W, 21-19  
 @ San Diego St.; L, 20-17  
 @ Fresno State; L, 46-28  
 COLORADO St.; L, 45-19  
 @ Wyoming; L, 35-23  
 SAN JOSE ST.; L, 55-48

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: K. Crook (Sr., 6-3, 205)	C. Hayward (Fr., 6-4, 210)
RB: C. Hankins (Jr., 5-9, 185)	J. Wofford (So., 6-0, 200)*
WR: D. James (Fr., 5-9, 185)	C. Baker (Sr., 5-10, 195)*
WR: L. Ware (Jr., 6-1, 195)	S. Brandon (Fr., 6-3, 200)
HB: D. Williams (Sr., 6-3, 225)*	N. Rydallch (Jr., 5-10, 185)
TE: S. Mineo (Sr., 6-3, 250)*	M. Leatham (Sr., 6-4, 230)
LT: J. Greer (So., 6-5, 295)*	R. Grundy (Jr., 6-5, 315)
LG: Jera Pierucci (Sr., 6-5, 305)*	D. Pacheco (So., 6-2, 295)
C: B. Gonzalez (Sr., 6-2, 280)*	A. Hall (Fr., 6-0, 265)
RG: M. Reily (Sr., 6-3, 290)*	B. Ellena (Sr., 6-4, 275)
RT: G. Pilarowski (Jr., 6-3, 295)	B. Hart (So., 6-5, 290)

#### DEFENSE

DE: R. Jones (Jr., 6-2, 245)*	L. Gambrell (Jr., 6-5, 230)
DT: T. Kirkpatrick (Sr., 6-5, 260)	R. Malle (Sr., 6-1, 290)
DT: T. Darnell (Sr., 6-5, 270)	D. Monroe (Sr., 6-2, 295)*
DE: T. Sawyer (Sr., 6-2, 260)*	A. Jones (Sr., 6-2, 215)
LB: A. C. Smith (Jr., 6-1, 225)	D. Rose (Fr., 6-0, 205)
LB: G. Gales (Sr., 6-2, 235)*	J. Sunia (Fr., 5-10, 250)
LB: Jera Pierucci (Jr., 6-2, 230)*	T. Brickell (So., 6-4, 230)
CB: A. Brisco (Jr., 6-0, 175)*	A. Hillard (Jr., 5-8, 155)
CB: M. Hays (Sr., 5-10, 190)*	S. Haslip (So., 5-10, 185)
SS: R. Black (So., 6-0, 205)*	K. Batton (So., 5-10, 180)
FS: Q. Sanders (Sr., 6-3, 200)*	A. Brown (Sr., 6-0, 195)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: T. O'Reilly (Jr., 6-0, 205)*	G. Zendejas (Jr., 5-8, 170)
P: J. Kristosik (Sr., 6-3, 220)*	T. O'Reilly (Jr., 6-0, 205)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONES

• Damon Williams is tied for the school record in receptions with 156.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.rebels.unlv.edu



# UNLV



DAMON WILLIAMS-HB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- No Jon Denton, no chance.
- Reduce turnover ratio.
- Defensive secondary has to stop someone.

Jeff Horton said they can't think about Jon Denton. That's what the UNLV coach would like to believe but he's knows it's not that simple. Without Denton, the Runnin' Rebels will likely be at the bottom of the WAC Mountain Division. With Denton, they have a chance to move up in the standings, or at the very least, move ahead of Tulsa and TCU.

The university was expected to rule in August on the twice-suspended statistically dominating quarterback. He had been run out of three games last season for "violating team rules" and was taken out of spring football with his status left in doubt. "We're preparing like he won't be here," Horton said. "We can't count on anything until it happens. If it does, it's a bonus."

No one is condoning his off-field behavior, but it won't just be a bonus if he's on the field, it'll be a must if the Runnin' Rebels want to avoid the bottom two spots.

### OFFENSE

If Denton can't play and Kevin Crook is the starter, he'll at least take comfort knowing that someone will be able to catch his passes. UNLV's offensive strength is at wide receiver, where Damon Williams, Len Ware and Carlos Baker all return. Williams, now in his last year, has caught one pass in every one of the 34 games he's played in his career.

The running backs aren't as stable with Coury Hankins and James Wofford returning but hardly dominating after each rushed for a little over 600 yards. The line has three starters back with Bubba Gonzalez, Mike Reily and Jerald Pierucci anchoring what will become a critical front if the unproven Crook is in the pocket.

The Runnin' Rebels have to improve their 107th ranking in turnovers with a mi-

nus 17 count after handing out 24 interceptions. "We need to develop more consistency and not throw the ball to the other team so much," said Horton in stating the obvious. "Ball security has to be a big goal."

### DEFENSE

The defense has shown improvement, going from last (543 yards a game in 1996) to 72nd (382 yards a game) a year ago. The Rebels went to a 4-3 alignment, and will miss departed All-WAC linebacker Scott Patton to lean on in the middle. The emphasis will have to shift to the line where All-WAC first team lineman Talance Sawyer, who led the conference in tackles for loss with 18, and Roderick Jones will lead the pass rush up front. Greg Gales and A.C. Smith will pick up for Patton's absence. All four defensive backs return but that might not mean much considering they were picked on so often a year ago.

"We need to increase the pressure on people and that means Talance Sawyer," Horton said. "We'd like to get 15 sacks out of him. We've got eight quality players up there who really turned it on in the spring."

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior punter Joe Kristosik is back but needs to raise his 37.8 punting average, five yards worse than in '96. Tim O'Reilly is back as placekicker but not without reservation after he failed to make a field goal longer than 37 and connected on only 9 of 13. The return game should be fine with the host of receivers helping out on special teams.

"The kicking game still concerns me," Horton said. "Tim is solid but he needs to develop his range. It's essential that Joe has a turnaround year punting for us."

### RECRUITING

Horton will need to use a number of newcomers. Glen Pilarowski and Robert Grundy at offensive tackle, Duane James and Nate Rydallch at receiver, Faalo Alovao at defensive end, Dusty Pearce and Devon Rose at linebacker and Andre Hilliard in the secondary all have a chance to see time.

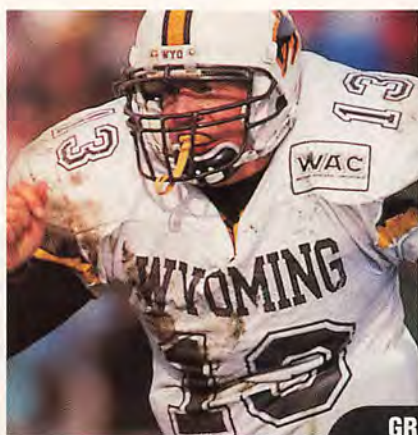
"When we went from the Big West to the WAC, that was a big jump," Horton said. "It's been a tough hill to climb but every year we've made progress. It's never enough in my eyes but for the first time we feel that we're on the verge of becoming a top-four team in the WAC. We finally have the bodies."

By Andy Katz





# Wyoming



BRIAN BROWN-LB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find offensive linemen capable of sustaining running game.
- Start strong in non-conference schedule before taking on WAC foes.
- Stop fumbling so much; 19 lost fumbles led WAC.

**H**azing is alive and well on America's campuses. Or so it must have seemed to Dana Dimel.

The youngest head football coach in Division I-A spent his first season in Laramie trying to survive a paddling from some of football's most talented teams and a series of practical jokes by the schedule maker. Thirteen games in 13 weeks, starting with a preseason visit to Ohio State? Welcome to the club, rookie. "I walked into a precarious situation," said Dimel, a former Kansas State defensive coordinator. "We were the only team in the country to play 13 straight weeks, college or pro."

It showed soon after midseason, when the Cowboys reached the meat of the WAC season. Worn down by the difficult schedule, Wyoming managed only 34 points in its four conference losses.

The schedule is markedly easier this season, and Dimel believes the Cowboys will be likewise improved, particularly the offense.

Of course, the defense couldn't get much better, not after a season in which Wyoming ranked third nationally in sacks, with 54. Add in 24 interceptions and 18 fumble recoveries, and what do you get? Well, in Wyoming's case, a few heartbreaking losses, like 14-7 to WAC champ Colorado State, and 20-19 to Colorado. "It was the best defense Wyoming has had in 30 years," the coach said.

He's counting on eight returning offensive starters, led by sophomore quarterbacking phenom Jay Stoner, to help him pay back some coaches for that first-year punishment.

## OFFENSE

One season into his WAC career, Dimel has concluded that, despite its reputation as a passing paradise, the WAC can be won on the ground. And Marques Bringham, he believes, is just the tailback to do it. "We're go-

ing to make him into a star," the coach said of his senior back, who averaged nearly 70 yards a game as a junior.

Stoner was used in a quarterback rotation, since the Cowboys didn't want to force too much too soon on their freshman. By midseason, though, he forced their hand. Now Dimel believes Wyoming has its leader into the next millennium. "Jay was really too talented to rotate," the coach said. "I would be willing to bet he continues to mature and provide a lot of leadership."

He'll throw to potential game-breaker Wendell Montgomery. Whether the junior receiver holds on is another question. Montgomery is fast, but drops enough passes that even the coaching staff was surprised by the number.

The Cowboys have two effective tight ends, pass-catcher Julian Hooker and blocker Kirby Drube, but the line may be fragile. Only guard Demetrius Hamilton and center Jeff Smith, who is moving from left guard, have any significant experience.

## DEFENSE

Take away a consensus All-American safety and the school's second-leading tackler in history, and what are you left with? A challenge, Dimel admits, but not an insurmountable one. Brian Lee and linebacker Jim Talich have graduated, along with both starting defensive ends, but the Cowboys will attack the problem with speed. "We'll be faster than last year, at every position but one," said Dimel, who concedes that J.P. Williams may not be as quick as departed cornerback Je'Nay Jackson. "They may not be as experienced, so the stats may not be as good. But we'll have a lot more speed, and that can make a big difference."

So can great linebackers, and Wyoming believes it has one in senior Brian Brown, who led the Cowboys in tackles with 136.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

All-WAC punter Aron Langley will try to reprise his 45-yard average on the windy plains of Laramie, while Wyoming native Aaron Elling will battle with senior Chris Stanton to replace Cory Wedel.

## RECRUITING

When a high school All-American turns down UCLA, Stanford and BYU to come to Wyoming, even his coach is amazed. "It shows that we're building something worthwhile," Dimel said of 6-2, 235-pound linebacker Scott Fuller of Mesa, Ariz., a freshman who could play right away.

By Phil Miller

## WYOMING Facts

**Coach:** Dana Dimel, 2nd year, 7-6

**'97 Record:** 7-6 (4-4 conf.)\*

**Home Stadium:** War Memorial Stadium, Laramie, Wyo. (33,500; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (8 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Je'Nay Jackson, CB (1st team All-WAC Mountain Division); Brian Lee, FS (1st team All-WAC Mountain Division); Jim Talich, LB (2nd team All-WAC Mountain Division); Cory Wedel, K (1st team All-WAC Mountain Division)

\*Record revised to 8-5 (4-4) after Colorado was forced to forfeit victory by NCAA

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jay Stoner, So., 149-299-1,890 yards, 8 TDs, 10 INTs

**Rushing:** Marques Bringham, Sr., 153 carries, 696 yards, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Wendell Montgomery, Jr., 58, 4 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Montgomery, 905

**Tackles:** Brian Brown, Sr., 136

**Sacks:** Brown, 8

**Interceptions:** Al Rich, So., J.P. Williams, Sr., 2

**Punting:** Aron Langley, Sr., 45.2 avg.

**Kicking:** None

**Scoring:** Bringham, 36 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/12 MONTANAST.  
9/19 @ Georgia  
9/26 LOUISIANA TECH  
10/3 UTAH  
10/10 SMU  
10/17 @ UNLV  
10/24 RICE  
10/31 @ TCU  
11/7 @ Colorado St.  
11/14 AIR FORCE  
11/21 @ Tulsa

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Ohio St.; L, 24-10  
IOWA ST.; W, 56-10  
@ Hawaii; W, 35-6  
SAN JOSE ST.; W, 30-10  
@ Colorado; L, 20-19  
MONTANA; W, 28-13  
@ Nevada; W, 34-20  
COLORADO ST.; L, 14-7  
@ SMU; L, 22-17  
SAN DIEGO ST.; W, 41-17  
UNLV; W, 35-23  
@ Air Force; L, 14-3  
@ Fresno St.; L, 24-7

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Stoner (So., 6-1, 213)\* M. Swanson (Fr., 6-2, 170)  
TB: M. Bringham (Sr., 5-11, 202)\* T. Beasley (Jr., 5-11, 196)  
FB: J. Jarnagin (Jr., 6-1, 229) D. Tesinsky (Fr., 6-0, 220)  
WR: W. Montgomery (Jr., 6-2, 209)\* T. Nash (Jr., 6-0, 159)  
WR: K. Shuck (Jr., 6-2, 168)\* R. McClendon (Sr., 6-0, 177)  
TE: J. Hooker (Sr., 6-4, 238)\* K. Drube (Sr., 6-6, 260)  
LT: D. Hamilton (Sr., 6-3, 285)\* C. Cichosz (Jr., 6-4, 294)  
LG: D. Delcorio (Jr., 6-2, 285)\* T. Staggs (Sr., 6-3, 292)  
C: J. Smith (Sr., 6-4, 289)\* S. Allmon (Sr., 6-4, 292)  
RG: J. Wilhelm (Jr., 6-5, 293) P. Hutchinson (Fr., 6-5, 273)  
RT: N. Selk (Jr., 6-6, 298) T. Demos (Jr., 6-5, 299)

### DEFENSE

DE: P. Hirsch (So., 6-3, 220) J. Wojtkiewicz (Sr., 6-4, 230)\*  
DT: B. Van Emmerik (Jr., 6-4, 262)\* J. Dessen (Jr., 6-4, 265)  
DT: J. Boyle (So., 6-1, 251) A. Willett (Fr., 6-3, 226)  
DE: A. Hill (So., 6-2, 224) P. Chukwurah (So., 6-2, 210)  
LB: J. Amundson (Sr., 6-1, 235)\* M. Klotz (Fr., 6-1, 195)  
LB: B. Brown (Sr., 5-11, 215)\* M. Ford (Fr., 6-1, 219)  
LB: B. Peprah (So., 5-11, 212) C. Barnes (So., 6-2, 220)  
CB: J.P. Williams (Sr., 5-9, 175) M. Sheller (So., 5-9, 184)  
CB: R. Duncan (Jr., 5-9, 186)\* T.W. Steele (Jr., 5-9, 180)  
SS: G.V. Leer (Sr., 5-11, 186)\* T. Gamble (Jr., 5-10, 189)  
FS: A. Rich (So., 5-11, 184) M. Lehning (Jr., 6-1, 195)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: A. Elling (Fr., 6-1, 185) C. Stanton (Sr., 6-1, 201)  
P: A. Langley (Sr., 6-0, 185)\* T. Waring (So., 6-1, 160)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Wyoming led the nation in forced turnovers, with 24 interceptions and 18 fumble recoveries.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

[www.wyo.edu/om/ath/intercol/index.htm](http://www.wyo.edu/om/ath/intercol/index.htm)



## BYU Facts

**Coach:** LaVell Edwards, 27th year, 234-86-3

**'97 record:** 6-5 (4-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Cougar Stadium, Provo, Utah, (65,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (5 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Omarr Morgan, CB (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Brian McKenzie, RB (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Dustin Johnson, TE (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Ben Cahoon, WR (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Eric Bateman, RT (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division)

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Kevin Feterik, Jr., 125-208-1,611 yards, 11 TDs, 5 INTs

**Rushing:** Will Snowden, So., 36 carries, 130 yards, 1 TD

**Receiving (Catches):** Aaron Cupp, Sr., 20, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Margin Hooks, So., 324 yards

**Tackles:** Rob Morris, Jr., 110

**Sacks:** Byron Frisch, Jr., 9

**Interceptions:** Tyler Nelson, Jr., 2

**Punting:** J.D. Hartsfield, Jr., 41.3 avg.

**Kicking:** Owen Pochman, So., 9-15 FGs (long 47), 29-30 PATs

**Scoring:** Pochman, 56 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Alabama  
9/12 @ ARIZONA ST.  
9/19 @ Washington  
9/26 MURRAY ST.  
10/3 @ Fresno St.  
10/10 UNLV  
10/17 @ Hawaii  
10/24 SAN JOSE ST.  
10/29 SAN DIEGO ST.  
11/7 NEW MEXICO  
11/14 @ UTEP  
11/21 @ Utah

### 1997 RESULTS

WASHINGTON; L, 42-20  
ARIZONA STATE; W, 13-10  
SMU; W, 19-16  
UTAH STATE; W, 42-35  
Rice; L, 27-14  
HAWAII; W, 17-3  
TCU; W, 31-10  
UTEP; L, 14-3  
TULSA; W, 49-39  
New Mexico; L, 38-24  
Utah; L, 20-14

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: K. Feterik (Jr., 6-0, 190)\* D. Miller (So., 6-0, 200)  
RB: R. Jenkins (So., 5-11, 170) J. Dabney (So., 5-6, 165)  
RB: K. Sitake (So., 6-0, 250) A. Cupp (Sr., 5-11, 230)\*  
WR: M. Hooks (So., 5-10, 190) B. Horton (So., 5-11, 175)  
WR: A. Roderick (Sr., 5-9, 165)\* M. Rigell (Fr., 5-7, 175)  
TE: T. Ofahengaue (So., 6-2, 245) C. Nuno (Jr., 6-4, 245)  
LG: J. Skiba (Jr., 6-2, 285) S. Magalei (So., 6-2, 295)  
LT: J. Tait (Jr., 6-7, 298)\* F. Poston (Jr., 6-6, 290)  
C: J. Richards (So., 6-3, 305) J. Scukanec (Fr., 6-2, 275)  
RT: H. Wong (Sr., 6-6, 315)\* C. Schmitt (Jr., 6-4, 290)  
RG: M. Johnson (Jr., 6-4, 325) K. Valgardsen (So., 6-4, 270)

#### DEFENSE

DE: E. Kehl (Sr., 6-4, 300)\* H. Olsen (So., 6-4, 280)  
DT: D. Yancey (Sr., 6-6, 285)\* C. Hoke (So., 6-2, 285)  
DT: I. Magalei (Sr., 6-2, 285)\* I. Pili (Fr., 6-3, 305)  
DE: B. Frisch (Jr., 6-5, 260)\* S. Gali (So., 6-4, 245)  
LB: D. Stevenson (Sr., 6-4, 240) J. Ena (Fr., 6-3, 245)  
LB: R. Morris (Jr., 6-2, 250)\* J. Ellis (Sr., 6-1, 225)  
LB: B. Martin (Sr., 6-1, 240)\* S. Moloni (Fr., 6-2, 245)  
CB: J. Williams (Jr., 5-10, 200) K. Morton (So., 5-6, 165)  
CB: H. Robertson (So., 5-9, 180) D. Henstrom (Jr., 6-1, 185)  
SS: C. Ellison (Sr., 5-10, 185) T. Nelson (Jr., 6-3, 215)\*  
FS: J. Walker (Sr., 6-1, 195)\* J. Anderson (Fr., 6-1, 190)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: O. Pochman (So., 6-0, 155)\* J.D. Hartsfield (Jr., 5-10, 170)  
P: J.D. Hartsfield (Jr., 5-10, 170)\* J. Sowards (Jr., 5-10, 195)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• BYU has gone 286 games without being shutout, an on-going NCAA record

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.byu.edu/~byusport



# BYU



KEVIN FETERIK-QB

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- BYU must get back to what they do best — throwing the ball.
- Inexperienced cornerbacks have to mature quickly.
- The young offensive line will also need to create holes for Ronney Jenkins.

Brigham Young doesn't lose too often in November. The Cougars had lost just three previous November games in the 1990s, all to rival Utah. They lost three last season, only one to Utah. Losing at UTEP and at New Mexico, the latter not as shocking as the former, proved that the Cougars were more vulnerable than at any point during this decade. "I've never had a year where I can recall that we ended so poorly," coach LaVell Edwards said.

The WAC is certainly a stronger conference, evidenced by New Mexico's rise to the top of the division after being one of the worst programs in the nation. In addition, Rice has become a consistent winner and SMU is suddenly a team that can't be pushed around easily. In BYU's favor, it has moved along with the Lobos, UTEP and arch rival Utah to a weaker Pacific Division that has only one other potential championship team in San Diego State.

Still, the Cougars have their work cut out for them. "I think the players have bought into everything this offseason, and we've got to work hard in the spring," Edwards said. "It's reminiscent of the big year [14-1 in 1996] when we came in with this attitude."

That campaign followed the only other non-bowl season in the 1990s. While the Cougars might not reach the heights they attained in '96, a return to postseason play is not out of the question.

### OFFENSE

BYU seemed to get away from its bread-and-butter passing game last year, but having Brian McKenzie in the backfield and an untested quarterback in Kevin Feterik probably had something to do with it. Now McKenzie is gone and Feterik has a season under his belt. "We've got to start throwing the football and we will," Edwards said. "We're a passing team

and we didn't abandon it but at times we had an inexperienced quarterback and with McKenzie, that was the way to go for us."

Feterik lost his top two targets but does have Margin Hooks and Aaron Roderick back at wideout. Replacing All-WAC performer Dustin Johnson at tight end is Tevita Ofahengaue, whose name is as difficult to say as he is to tackle. John Tait, a first-team All-WAC tackle, is one of two returning starters on the line.

Sophomore Ronney Jenkins will be counted on to replace McKenzie in the backfield. Jenkins, who redshirted a year ago, was the WAC's Freshman of the Year in 1996 when he rushed for 773 yards and had 11 touchdowns.

### DEFENSE

BYU returns six of its front seven starters, but the secondary has to replace All-WAC cornerback Omarr Morgan, and it must improve its ability to prevent the big play. Otherwise, the Cougars still could suffer against the likes of Arizona State, Washington,

Utah, San Diego State and UNLV. "We need the young corners to come along, that's going to be a key," Edwards said.

Byron Frisch, a second-team all-WAC defensive end, led the team with nine sacks and is back to anchor the pass rush. Brad Martin and Rob Morris at linebacker are heavy hitters who can contribute to hurries and provide stops against the run. The Cougars did have trouble stopping Rice on the ground a year ago as the Owls spread option gave BYU fits. This year's crew should have a better idea of what to expect.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Owen Pochman's left foot kept the Cougars in plenty of games as he hit on 9 of 15 field goal attempts. His kicks of 45 and 32 yards against Arizona State and 47 and 41 against SMU provided the margin of victory in both wins. The punting is secure with J.D. Hartsfield, who averaged 41.3 yards per boot last year.

### RECRUITING

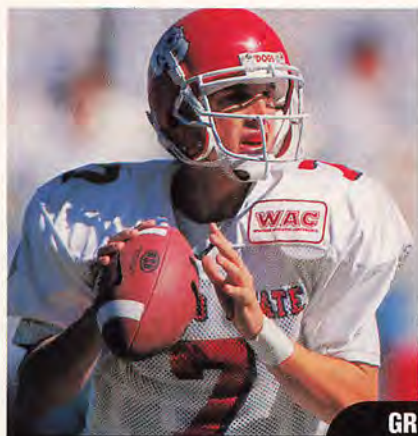
The two-deep is littered with freshmen who will have to make an immediate impact. Names to remember are Mike Rigell at wide receiver, Jason Scukanec at center, Justin Ena and Stan Moloni at linebacker and Jason Anderson at safety. JUCO transfers John Skiba and Craig Schmitt will be expected to contribute immediately on the offensive line.

By Andy Katz





# Fresno State



BILL VOLEK-QB

yards for two straight years, has departed, and his replacement will likely be either Paris Gaines, who was ineligible last season, or Joe Turner. Fullback Jaime Kimbrough brings back his mix of tough blocking, good hands (a team-high 36 receptions) and strong running (484 yards).

The offensive line returns Ken Foersch, Josh Kobdich and Jeremiah Ross, but depth will be a problem here. Also back are tight ends Scott Thompson (24 receptions, 10 of which came against Oregon) and Vince Branstetter.

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Must get better production from the wideouts.
- Need a running back to emerge as a replacement for Michael Pittman.
- Newcomers have to impact the defensive line and at linebacker.

When Pat Hill took over at Fresno State, he promised that the Bulldogs would be competitive. True to his word, Fresno State fought all year, rebounding from a 1-3 start to end up 6-6 with a 5-3 WAC record, good for third place. "We did some good things a year ago, but we were a 6-6 football team," Hill said, "and we only won one of four games that were determined in the fourth quarter. There's still a lot more growth in this team to come. ... We have a lot of youth on this squad and we don't talk about being young. We talk about the urgency to grow up."

Part of growing up involves discipline, both on and off the field. Hill accepted that there would be turnover until the program was filled with players who agreed with his philosophy. A roster dominated by freshmen and sophomores shows he's not kidding around.

That combination of youth, along with a tough schedule—Fresno State opens up on the road with Colorado and Texas Tech—could mean another rough start for the Bulldogs. Although a WAC title is not likely in Fresno State's immediate future, you can be sure Hill will have them fighting until the end.

## OFFENSE

As a sophomore last season, quarterback Bill Volek stepped in, grabbed control in the huddle, and had the attention of everyone on the field. He completed 56 percent of his passes for 1,853 yards and finished fifth in the 16-team WAC in passing efficiency. Volek put up those numbers with a receiving corps that was thin and inexperienced. Now the Bulldogs return Anthony Tucker, whose 32 receptions tied for second on the squad, and expect Atnaf Harris, who was ineligible last year, to emerge as a deep threat.

Michael Pittman, who gained over 1,000

## DEFENSE

Fresno State made significant progress under first-year defensive coordinator Kevin Coyle in '97, producing 40 sacks, an average of 3.3 a game, the most the team has recorded since 1989. In addition, they reversed their turnover margin, going from minus 20 in '96 to plus 12 last year.

The Bulldogs lost Andrew Jones, their leader on the line, but do return some young players that they'll have to rely on. Jake

Probst started nine games as a true freshman and JUCO transfer Patrick Machado started eight, and the duo of Justin Johnson and Seandale Jackson had a total of seven sacks between them in backup roles.

Linebacker was the heart of this defense and the top returnee is sophomore Tim Skipper in the middle, whose 117 tackles ranked him second on the team. The other two starters, A.J. Gass and Bobby Brooks, are each trying to gain another year of eligibility. If they succeed, all is well. If they are denied, this unit will struggle to match the success enjoyed by last season's crew.

The secondary is led by overachieving Efrain Guizar, who had six interceptions after joining the team as a walk-on. Sam Wilson, Cory Hall and Payton Williams still have to prove themselves and will be picked on in a more pass-happy Pacific.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

The Bulldogs have a strong kicking game with punter Jeff Roberts, whom Hill calls Fresno State's best offensive weapon, and kicker Jeff Hanna, who overcame a slow start to hit on 12 of his last 14 field-goal attempts.

## RECRUITING

Frank Battle comes in from Merced (Calif.) College and could provide immediate help at defensive end. Marcellus Armstrong, a local player from Edison High in Fresno, will get a shot at running back.

By Andy Katz

## FRESNO ST. Facts

**Coach:** Pat Hill, 2nd year, 6-6

**'97 record:** 6-6 (5-3 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Bulldog Stadium, Fresno, Calif. (41,031; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 14 (7 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Michael Pittman, RB (1st-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Chris Conrad, OT (1st-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Andrew Jones, DT (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Michael Carr, G

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Billy Volek, Jr., 178-318-1,853 yards, 17 TDs, 6 INTs

**Rushing:** Jaime Kimbrough, Sr., 95 carries, 484 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Kimbrough, 36, 5 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Kimbrough, 368 yards

**Tackles:** Tim Skipper, So., 117

**Sacks:** Justin Johnson, So., 4

**Interceptions:** Efrain Guizar, Sr., 6

**Punting:** Jeff Roberts, Sr., 43.7 avg.

**Kicking:** Jeff Hanna, Jr., 12-18 FGs (long 51), 32-35 PATs

**Scoring:** Hanna, 68

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/12 @ Colorado  
9/19 @ Texas Tech  
9/26 NEVADA  
10/3 BYU  
10/10 @ TCU  
10/17 @ Utah  
10/24 UTEP  
10/31 @ New Mexico  
11/7 @ San Diego St.  
11/14 HAWAII  
11/21 SAN JOSE ST.

## 1997 RESULTS

PORTLAND STATE; W, 35-7  
BAYLOR; L, 37-35  
@ Oklahoma St.; L, 35-0  
@ Oregon; L, 43-40  
UTAH; W, 27-13  
@ Hawaii; L, 28-16  
@ Air Force; W, 20-17  
UNLV; W, 46-28  
@ San Jose St.; W, 53-12  
@ Colorado State; L, 41-3  
SAN DIEGO ST.; L, 20-19  
WYOMING; W, 24-7

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Volek (Jr., 6-2, 200)\* D. Carr (So., 6-3, 210)  
TB: J. Turner (Jr., 5-10, 190) P. Gaines (So., 6-1, 210)  
FB: J. Kimbrough (Sr., 5-8, 196)\* C. Holmes (Jr., 6-1, 215)  
WR: D. Shabaglian (So., 6-0, 184) E. Mahanke (Sr., 6-2, 191)  
WR: A. Tucker (Sr., 6-0, 178)\* A. Harris (Sr., 6-0, 160)  
TE: S. Thompson (Sr., 6-2, 238)\* V. Branstetter (Jr., 6-3, 255)  
LT: J. Kobdich (Sr., 6-5, 270)\* D. Burch (Fr., 6-5, 240)  
LG: K. Foersch (Sr., 6-3, 283)\* J. Watson (Fr., 6-2, 260)  
C: C. Ede (Jr., 6-2, 265) M. Stovall (Fr., 6-2, 267)  
RG: R. Harding (So., 6-1, 265) J. Potasi (Fr., 6-2, 260)  
RT: J. Ross (Sr., 6-4, 290)\* R. Gattrell (Jr., 6-4, 280)

### DEFENSE

LE: P. Machado (Sr., 6-2, 242)\* F. Battle (Jr., 6-5, 270)  
LT: J. Lemon (Sr., 6-1, 269) B. Jackson (So., 6-1, 256)  
RT: S. Jackson (Jr., 6-1, 240) T. Lockhart (So., 6-3, 280)  
RE: J. Probst (So., 6-2, 229)\* K. Jordan (So., 6-4, 265)  
LB: T. Grayson (So., 6-1, 211) K. Adams (Jr., 6-3, 230)  
LB: T. Skipper (So., 5-6, 205)\* G. Chiamonte (So., 6-0, 235)  
LB: J. Johnson (So., 6-3, 210) M. Rodriguez (Fr., 6-2, 240)  
CB: S. Wilson (Sr., 5-11, 175) D. Marsh (So., 5-9, 175)  
CB: P. Williams (Jr., 5-8, 165) T. Sams (So., 5-9, 165)  
SS: E. Guizar (Sr., 6-0, 175)\* A. Limbrick (So., 6-0, 176)  
FS: C. Hall (6-0, 197, Sr.)\* L. Deck (So., 5-10, 180)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Hanna (Jr., 6-1, 196)\* J. Roberts (Sr., 6-4, 215)  
P: J. Roberts (Sr., 6-4, 215)\* J. Hanna (Jr., 6-1, 196)\*

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Bill Volek's six interceptions were a league low for quarterbacks with at least 300 attempts.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.fresnostatefootball.com



# HAWAII Facts

**Coach:** Fred vonAppen, 3rd year, 5-19

**'97 Record:** 3-9 (1-7 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, Hawaii (50,000; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 13 (7 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Eddie Klaneski, FS (1st-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Shane Oliveira, C (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Chris Shinnick, SS; Ellie Kapihe, DE; Brian Chapman, LB; Punahou Aina, LB;

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Josh Skinner, Jr., 109-195-1, 416 yards, 3 TDs, 13 INTs

**Rushing:** Charles Tharp, So., 195 carries, 796 yards, 7 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Tharp, 42

**Receiving (Yards):** Tharp, 435 yards, 1 TD

**Tackles:** Kamuela Cobb-Adams, Sr., 40

**Sacks:** Cobb-Adams, 6

**Interceptions:** Joaquin Avila, So., Donnell Williams, Sr., 1

**Punting:** Chad Shrout, Jr., 46.1 avg.

**Kicking:** Eric Hannum, Jr., 15-24 (long 46), 18-19 PATs

**Scoring:** Hannum, 63 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/4	ARIZONA
9/19	@ Utah
9/26	ARKANSAS ST.
10/3	SMU
10/10	@ San Diego St.
10/17	BYU
10/24	NEW MEXICO
10/31	@ UTEP
11/7	SAN JOSE ST.
11/14	@ Fresno St.
11/21	NORTHWESTERN
11/28	MICHIGAN

## 1997 RESULTS

MINNESOTA; W, 17-3
CS-NORTHBRIDGE; W, 34-21
WYOMING; L, 35-6
@ UNLV; L, 25-15
@ Colorado State; L, 68-0
FRESNO STATE; W, 28-16
@ BYU; L, 17-3
SAN DIEGO ST.; L, 10-3
AIR FORCE; L, 34-27
@ San Jose State; L, 38-14
NE LOUISIANA; L, 23-20
NOTRE DAME; L, 23-22

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Skinner (Jr., 6-1, 190)*	D. Robinson (Jr., 6-3, 209)
TB: C. Tharp (So., 5-8, 187)*	F. Lau (Sr., 5-11, 187)
FB: A. Dienes (Sr., 5-9, 229)	C. Mims (Sr., 5-11, 223)*
WR: W. Morris (Sr., 5-11, 189)*	J. Kirby (Sr., 6-2, 174)
WR: E. Kane (Jr., 5-10, 161)*	R. Kemfort (So., 6-2, 192)
TE: A. Klemm (Jr., 6-4, 282)*	Z. Ah Quin (Sr., 5-10, 247)
LT: V. Street (Sr., 5-10, 275)	J. Kadala (Fr., 6-3, 318)
LG: J. Martinez (Sr., 6-5, 264)	J.B. Directo (Sr., 6-2, 289)
C: K. Tomomitsu (Sr., 5-10, 269)	C. Smith (Fr., 6-1, 270)
RG: A. Phillips (Jr., 6-4, 306)	A. Sandoval (So., 6-2, 302)
RT: K. Noa (Jr., 6-5, 305)*	M. Kanoa (Jr., 6-5, 288)

### DEFENSE

DT: B. Bright (Sr., 6-2, 265)*	C. Thompson (Fr., 6-1, 256)
NT: T. Tuiofi (Jr., 6-0, 280)	M. Garner (So., 6-2, 330)
DE: M. Elam (Sr., 6-2, 262)	M. Iosua (So., 6-3, 269)
LB: R. Brooks (Sr., 6-0, 215)	M. Mollner (Sr., 6-5, 230)
LB: K.C. Adams (Sr., 6-0, 219)*	Y. Warren (Jr., 6-2, 202)
LB: S. Gonzales (Sr., 6-2, 236)*	J. Avila (So., 6-2, 218)
LB: M. Paul (Jr., 5-10, 230)	J. Ulbrich (So., 6-2, 243)
CB: D. Williams (Sr., 6-0, 175)*	J. Jiles (Jr., 6-1, 188)
CB: C. Bobbitt (Jr., 5-11, 180)	R. Lumford (So., 5-8, 170)
SS: A. Smith (So., 6-1, 183)	B. Santamria (Sr., 5-11, 190)
FS: D. Ho-Ching (Jr., 5-11, 186)	D. Arafiles (Sr., 5-10, 183)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: E. Hannum (Jr., 6-2, 170)*	C. Shrout (Jr., 6-0, 249)
P: C. Shrout (Jr., 6-0, 249)*	E. Hannum (Jr., 6-2, 170)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• Charles Tharp led the team in both rushing and receiving, the second time that's ever happened at Hawaii.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.hawaii.edu/athletics



# Hawaii



CHARLES THARP-RB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Must establish ball control offensively.
- Both lines have to hold their ground.
- A quarterback has to emerge as the starter; rotations haven't worked here.

The false sense of security was almost too cruel. Hawaii beat a Big Ten team, Minnesota, in its opener and started out 2-0. It looked like coach Fred vonAppen had pulled off the impossible.

But then injuries occurred, the pro-set quarterback in the pro-set offense was lost for the season and depth was nonexistent. And so losing returned in a contagious way, even the routs from the previous year were back. Hawaii won one game over its final 10.

Now what?

Maybe the offense could include more of a veer look, with passing situations out of the run, rather than standing still in the pocket. Maybe the defense can recover from losing nearly every starter. Maybe the schedule won't be as cruel, although that seems unlikely, considering it includes defending national champion Michigan.

"We're still a work in progress," said vonAppen. "The third year can be dangerous. Nobody stands still. If you don't get better you'll get fired. We've got our work cut out for us. We were improved last year after being horrible the first year. Last year, we lost five games by 18 points and played some down to the wire, but still had those two anomalies where we played miserably. We've got to get those out of our system. We make too many errors and that erodes our confidence."

For the record, vonAppen is speaking of the 63-0 loss at Colorado State and the 38-14 loss at San Jose State.

### OFFENSE

Tim Carey is gone at quarterback and so is the standard pro set. vonAppen said now he'll just try to exploit the Rainbows best weapon—running back Charles Tharp. Tharp was everything to the Rainbows' offense as the WAC Freshman of the Year, averaging 16 carries a game and producing a 4.1

yards per carry average. He led the Rainbows in all-purpose yardage with 118.6 ypg and will probably be maxed out this season with the emphasis shifting all to him. "He's a good inside runner who has good balance. He doesn't have breakaway speed but he's reasonably fast and can blister up the field," said vonAppen.

Josh Skinner should start the year throwing the football to Tharp but Dan Robinson, who has the stronger arm, could supplant him midway through the season. Whoever is at quarterback, the Rainbows have to find some other weapons, possibly by using receiver John Kirby or tight end Adrian Klemm, who was moved off the offensive line.

"Our ability to throw the football is governed by how we run it," vonAppen said. "Skinner's our principle starter, but it's still not a stable quarterback until we get everyone in here." That includes the offensive line where depth is extremely thin. The Rainbows were down to three healthy offensive linemen in the spring.

### DEFENSE

While the offense is Tharp, the defense will be dreaming of Eddie Klaneski. Without the consecutive 100-tackle safety, the Rainbows are looking at the youngest defensive unit in the league. "We're depleted," vonAppen said. "When we arrived here we lost 22 players to academic attrition. We're so down in numbers it's hard to get the numbers up for spring practice."

Let alone the fall. The Rainbows were able to keep the passing games in check by allowing only 182.3 yards a game and weren't hammered on the ground, either, by giving up only 139.7 yards a game. All of the numbers—outside of three blowouts (Wyoming's 35-6 the other)—were respectable. But just when the offense finds a weapon, the defense is being overhauled.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Here's where hope is alive. Punter Chad Shrout, who had a 71 yard punt and averaged 46.1 yards a kick, could be an All-WAC punter. Kicker Eric Hannum needs to improve his range, but was reliable and was nearly flawless on extra points.

### RECRUITING

The Rainbows signed 24 players and may need every one of them to contribute. Look for massive help along the offensive line, linebacker and secondary. Newcomers will have to be a factor or the Rainbows will be looking at a one-win WAC season again.

By Andy Katz





# New Mexico



GRAHAM LEIGH-QB

Just as New Mexico reached the pinnacle of head coach Dennis Franchione's tenure, he quit. Last year, the Lobos posted their second straight winning season, going 9-4 with postseason losses in the WAC Championship and the Insight.com Bowl. Then "Coach Fran" took a more financially lucrative head coaching position at TCU, which New Mexico trounced last year en route to just its third nine-win season in 99 years.

But there's still a feel-good story coming out of Albuquerque, where the fans tore down the goalposts on consecutive weekends at the end of last season: prodigal son Rocky Long has returned to take his first job as a head coach. Long, who last year was the defensive coordinator at UCLA, quarterbacked the Lobos 27 years ago. He'll implement subtle changes on both offense and defense, and will benefit from another weak pre-WAC schedule.

## OFFENSE

Graham Leigh is the best quarterback you know nothing about. The '97 WAC Mountain Offensive Player of the Year was the chief reason New Mexico defeated the likes of BYU and averaged 32.5 points per game. Leigh threw for 2,318 yards, 24 TDs and only eight interceptions, and was also the Lobos' leading rusher, running for 528 yards and eight scores.

Leigh has poise, too, which Long finds promising. "Whenever you're starting in with a new scheme," Long said, "it's always good to have an experienced and confident quarterback. Graham is definitely that."

Three talented running backs return, though none stayed healthy in '97. Lennox Gordon rushed for 1,038 yards and nine touchdowns in '96 but started only five games last year and saw his numbers correspondingly cut in half (494 yards, 4 TDs). He'll be the main guy if healthy but will share time with

Reginal Johnson and Dion Marion.

Leigh loses his best target with the departure of Pascal Volz, and since Long plans to use four receivers at times in a facsimile of UCLA's variation of the West Coast offense, people will have to step up for Leigh to maintain the consistency he had in '97. Regardless, he'll have big targets in Brian Messer (6-5) and Germany Thompson (6-3). Three starters return to a line that features Chris Wallace, who registered 92 "knockdowns."

## DEFENSE

The big adjustment here will be from a four-man to a three-man front. However, the Lobos will still employ a five-spoke secondary with an attacking, blitzing style. Long wants his defense to dictate the style of play, but there could be problems as all five members of the defensive backfield—which was one of the best in the nation—are gone. Marginal experience is found in senior safeties Chad Smith (free) and Antoine Wright (strong).

The Lobos used 11 defensive linemen in '97 and 10 return. Junior end Ryan Taylor tied for the WAC lead in sacks with 11, as the Lobos averaged three per game as a team. Seniors Barrett Garrison and Bill Borchers are two-year starters, and five others averaged 10 or more plays a game last year, so this unit has plenty of depth and experience.

At linebacker, four-year lettermen Blake Irwin and Bart Barnard went out in style. Stepping in will be Brian Urlacher, who finished second on the team with 102 tackles despite not starting. He plays the middle and has a penchant for the big play. In '97, he totaled two interceptions, two sacks, three pass deflections, three fumbles caused and two fumble recoveries.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Jason Bloom returns with a career average of 43.5 yards, and will also be one of three battling for the placekicking job. Chad Smith will return punts and the Lobos will use Marion and Johnson for kickoff returns.

## RECRUITING

Long had very little time to do it, but he assembled a more-than-respectable recruiting class. California JUCO transfers Tony Griffin and Lawrence Lovett, both wide receivers, will see plenty of action in '97. Griffin originally signed with USC out of high school. Lineman Brian Choi comes in from Colorado Springs. He weighed over 350 pounds at the end of his senior season but is expected to play at 300.

By Paul M. Johnson

## NEW MEXICO Facts

**Coach:** Rocky Long, 1st year

**'97 Record:** 9-4 (6-2 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** University Stadium, Albuquerque, N.M. (31,128; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 11 (7 off., 3 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Pascal Volz, WR (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Ramos McDonald, CB (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Scott McGarrahan, SS (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Billy Austin, FS (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Blake Irwin, LB (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division)

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Graham Leigh, Sr., 66-276-2,318 yards, 24 TDs, 8 INTs

**Rushing:** Leigh, 135 carries, 528 yards, 8 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Kawika Ordenstein, Sr., 20

**Receiving (Yards):** Ordenstein, 266

**Tackles:** Brian Urlacher, Jr., 102

**Sacks:** Ryan Taylor, Jr., 11

**Interceptions:** Urlacher, 2

**Punting:** Jason Bloom, Sr., 43.7 avg.

**Kicking:** Bloom, 1-1 FG (long 50)

**Scoring:** Leigh, 48 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 IDAHO ST.  
9/12 UTAH STATE  
9/19 @ New Mexico St.  
9/26 @ San Jose St.  
10/3 @ Air Force  
10/10 UTEP  
10/17 SAN DIEGO ST.  
10/24 @ Hawaii  
10/31 FRESNO ST.  
11/7 @ BYU  
11/14 UTAH  
11/21 @ Central Florida

## 1997 RESULTS

N. ARIZONA; W, 33-10  
N. MEXICO ST.; W, 61-24  
@ UTEP; W, 38-20  
@ Utah State; W, 25-22  
SMU; W, 22-15  
@ San Diego St.; W, 36-21  
RICE; L, 35-23  
@ Utah; L, 15-10  
@ TCU; W, 40-10  
BYU; W, 38-28  
TULSA; W, 51-13  
vs. Colorado St.; L, 41-13\*  
vs. Arizona; L, 20-14\*\*

\* WAC Championship  
\*\* Insight.com Bowl

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: G. Leigh (Sr., 6-3, 214)\* E. Jaworsky (So., 6-2, 202)  
TB: L. Gordon (Sr., 6-0, 201)\* R. Johnson (Jr., 5-9, 177)\*  
FB: C. Johnson (Sr., 6-0, 211) K. Leigh (So., 6-2, 219)  
WR: G. Thompson (Jr., 6-3, 208) L. Lovett (Jr., 6-1, 215)  
WR: B. Messer (Jr., 6-5, 210)\* D. Milner (Sr., 6-3, 221)  
TE: T. Hemphill (Sr., 6-5, 240) J. Burrough (So., 6-4, 228)  
LT: J. Brown (Jr., 6-4, 289)\* G. Skinner (Sr., 6-4, 276)  
LG: J. Carson (Jr., 6-3, 290)\* J. Oliver (Fr., 6-6, 275)  
C: J. Samuelson (So., 6-5, 296) J. Coppel (Fr., 6-4, 302)  
RG: C. Wallace (Sr., 6-2, 313)\* J. St. Aubyn (Fr., 6-4, 299)  
RT: C. Thacker (So., 6-5, 277) B.J. Long (Fr., 6-5, 299)

### DEFENSE

DE: R. Taylor (Jr., 6-0, 228)\* T. Journagan (Jr., 6-4, 269)  
NT: B. Garrison (Sr., 6-4, 261)\* J. Haynes (Sr., 6-1, 270)  
DE: B. Borchers (Sr., 6-3, 253)\* H. Stephens (So., 6-3, 255)  
LB: A. Teal (Fr., 6-3, 215) A. Nettles (So., 6-4, 211)  
LB: B. Urlacher (Jr., 6-4, 235) M. Barnett (So., 6-3, 234)  
LB: K. Lewis (Sr., 6-1, 235) S. Washington (Jr., 6-2, 226)  
NB: R. Harper (So., 6-1, 195) R. Sampson (Jr., 6-2, 190)  
CB: M. McDavid (Jr., 5-10, 169) C. Johnson (Jr., 5-11, 178)  
CB: W. Bernard (So., 6-2, 193) K.J. Friday (Jr., 5-11, 170)  
SS: A. Wright (Sr., 6-2, 218) J. Cockrell (Fr., 6-2, 194)  
FS: C. Smith (Sr., 5-10, 188) S. Gerhardt (Fr., 6-0, 190)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: M. Ross (Sr., 6-1, 193) J. Bloom (Sr., 6-6, 193)  
P: J. Bloom (Sr., 6-6, 193)\* D. Gonzales (Sr., 5-9, 184)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• 1998 will mark the 100th season of University of New Mexico football.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.unm.edu/~lobo



## SAN DIEGO ST. Facts

**Coach:** Ted Tollner, 5th year, 25-21; 51-41-1 overall  
**'97 Record:** 5-7 (4-4 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, Calif. (61,121; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 10 (4 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Kyle Turley OT (1st-team All-American); Ephraim Salaam, OT (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Az Hakim, WR (2nd-team All-WAC Pacific Division); Robert Whitman, G; Taj Johnson, WR; Dan Dorsey, DT; Cameron Chance, DT; Andy Osborne, LB; Julius McChristian, LB; Jason Moore, FS

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Spencer Brinton, So., 73-162-1,097 yards, 6 TDs, 10 INTs  
**Rushing:** Jonas Lewis, Jr., 227 carries, 1,021 yards, 6 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Jesus Reyes, Sr., 31, 2 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Reyes, 462 yards  
**Tackles:** Rico Curtis, Jr., 112  
**Sacks:** Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, Jr., 12  
**Interceptions:** Aazaar Abdul-Rahim, Jr., 3  
**Punting:** Don Copeland, Sr., 43.0 avg.  
**Kicking:** Nate Tandberg, So., 13-27 FGs (long 50), 28-28 PATs  
**Scoring:** Tandberg, 67 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 WISCONSIN  
 9/12 @ USC  
 9/24 ARIZONA  
 10/3 @ Tulsa  
 10/10 HAWAII  
 10/17 @ New Mexico  
 10/24 UTAH  
 10/29 @ BYU  
 11/7 FRESNO ST.  
 11/14 @ San Jose St.  
 11/21 UTEP

### 1997 RESULTS

NAVY; W, 45-31  
 @ Washington; L, 36-3  
 @ Wisconsin; L, 36-10  
 @ Air Force; L, 24-18  
 @ Arizona; L, 31-28  
 NEW MEXICO; L, 36-21  
 UNLV; W, 20-17  
 @ Hawaii; W, 10-3  
 @ Wyoming; L, 41-17  
 SAN JOSE ST.; W, 48-21  
 @ Fresno State, W, 20-19  
 COLORADO ST., L, 38-17

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: S. Brinton (So., 6-5, 220)\* B. Russell (So., 6-2, 205)  
 RB: J. Lewis (Jr., 5-9, 205)\* L. Ned (Fr., 5-11, 210)  
 HB: G. Toccagino (Jr., 6-3, 240) L. Mitchell (Jr., 6-2, 200)  
 WR: D. Gouridine (Jr., 5-7, 160) D. Martin (Fr., 6-2, 185)  
 WR: J. Reyes (Sr., 5-7, 170)\* S. Pierce (So., 5-8, 175)  
 TE: B. Mecham (Sr., 6-4, 255) J. Ange (Jr., 6-4, 240)  
 LT: R. Austin (Sr., 6-2, 310) P. Smith (So., 6-5, 290)  
 LG: A. Kline (Jr., 6-2, 295) C. Williams (So., 6-5, 285)  
 C: M. Malano (Jr., 6-2, 300)\* K. Missoumi (So., 6-2, 270)  
 RG: B. Elmore (Sr., 6-3, 305) T. Printy (Jr., 6-4, 300)  
 RT: G. Spillane (Jr., 6-4, 285) M. Houghton (Fr., 6-5, 305)

#### DEFENSE

DE: A. Young (Jr., 6-3, 255) A. G.-Biamila (So., 6-5, 250)  
 DT: D. Jones (Sr., 6-3, 300) T. Matautia (Sr., 6-2, 310)  
 DT: C. Martin (Jr., 6-3, 305) D. Neal (So., 6-5, 270)  
 DE: K. G.-Biamila (Jr., 6-4, 235)\* M. Scott (Jr., 6-3, 270)  
 LB: J. Jackson (Sr., 6-3, 235)\* J. Mayo (Jr., 6-0, 230)  
 LB: S. Johnson (Jr., 5-11, 205) M. Duran (Jr., 6-2, 230)  
 LB: J. Tuipala (Sr., 6-1, 240) D. Wesber (Jr., 5-10, 222)  
 CB: A. A.-Rahim (Jr., 5-8, 170) W. Ace (Fr., 5-9, 170)  
 CB: P. Balistreri (So., 5-11, 185) E. Lewis (Sr., 5-7, 155)\*  
 SS: R. Curtis (Jr., 6-0, 210)\* S. Auerbach (Sr., 6-1, 200)  
 FS: T. Smith (Jr., 5-7, 160) J. Stewart (Sr., 5-9, 185)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

P: D. Copeland (Sr., 6-2, 230)\* T. Cridlebaugh (Fr., 5-11, 190)  
 K: N. Tandberg (So., 5-9, 180)\* B. Cyester (Jr., 5-10, 180)

\* Denotes returning starter

#### MILESTONE

• San Diego State finished 72nd in the nation in defense, the highest ranking for the Aztecs since 1986.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.sdsu.edu/athletics



# San Diego State



KABEER GBAJA-BIAMILA-DE

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Discover if a deep threat remains at Wide Receiver U.
- Offensive line has to mature fast.
- Spencer Brinton has to complete a higher percentage of passes.

Coming off of two straight eight-win seasons, last year's San Diego State club had reasonable expectations to contend once again for the WAC championship. After all, the Aztecs returned a good number of the players—including 1998 NFL draft picks Kyle Turley at offensive tackle and Az Hakim at wide receiver—that were a big part of one of the most explosive offenses in the country. But after an opening home win against Navy, they proceeded to lose their next five games, including four straight on the road.

The fact that those road games were at Washington, Wisconsin, Air Force and Arizona made it clear that, despite coach Ted Tollner's belief to the contrary, the schedule was more than the Aztecs could handle. "It just proved to be too much," Tollner admitted.

This year, the schedule is more favorable—Wisconsin and Arizona visit Qualcomm Stadium, the only non-conference road game is at USC, and Colorado State is not on the Aztecs slate of WAC games. Unfortunately, Turley and Hakim have moved on, as has last year's starting quarterback, Kevin McKechnie, as well as middle linebacker Andy Osborne, the team's leading tackler. In fact, only four starters return on both sides of the ball.

Tollner is counting on the fight for starting slots to uncover the kind of players that can bring the Aztecs back into contention in the WAC. "I think we have quality people returning at a lot of positions," Tollner said, "and the competition for the right to play may... take us to another level."

#### OFFENSE

When McKechnie went down with an injury in the sixth game last year, freshman Spencer Brinton stepped in and led the Aztecs to a 4-2 mark the rest of the way. Still, he doesn't have

a lock on the job. "Spencer has to show he can improve his production to enable us to win at that position," Tollner said. Challenging Brinton will be Penn transfer Brian Russell and redshirt freshman Dusty Harris.

Whoever wins the job will be handing off to a hard-charging group of backs. Jonas Lewis gained 1,021 yards despite not starting the first five games of '97. Joining him in the backfield will be redshirt freshman Larry Ned, who gained 2,356 yards two years ago in high school, and JUCO transfer Mike Williams. They'll be running behind a rebuilt offensive line that only returns center Mike Malano.

The Aztecs are also thin at wide receiver, where diminutive Jesus Reyes is the leading returnee, but they have good depth at tight end, led by Ben Mecham and Gray McNeil.

#### DEFENSE

The top Aztec defender is All-WAC lineman Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila. His 12 sacks led the WAC and his 82 total tackles were the fourth highest ever at San

Diego State. "Our defensive front starts with Kabeer," Tollner said. "He's getting bigger, and stronger and has quickness. We need to find someone to line up opposite of him."

The only other experienced player is tackle Darryl Jones, but Clarence Martin, a transfer from Texas who sat out last season, should make an impact inside as well. Kabeer's brother, Akbar, could be the starter at the other defensive end.

Although the Aztecs lose Osborne and Julius McChristian, they do return starter Joe Jackson at outside linebacker. The other starters will come from among Joe Tuipala, Michael Duran and Scott Johnson. The secondary is fragile even with Rico Curtis and Aazaar Abdul-Rahim returning. Last year it had a tendency to give up the big play, but in a division without many big-play receivers, that may be tolerable.

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Don Copeland, who averaged a more than respectable 43 yards per boot, returns, as does Nate Tandberg, who needs to improve on his 13 of 27 field-goal accuracy.

#### RECRUITING

Three JUCO transfers—Kevin Burton (cornerback), Stan Bogard (free safety) and Scott Nicholson (defensive line)—could all end up starting this fall. Other JUCO signees who should see time in addition to Williams include Jim Ange (tight end), Joey Mayo (linebacker) and Ted Printy (offensive line).

By Andy Katz





OMARR SMITH-CB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Find a consistent ground game.
- Stop the run or pass at the line not in the secondary.
- Brian Vye has to put up high numbers to offset a suspect ground game.

Since joining the WAC two years ago, San Jose State has been struggling to stay alive. The Spartans lost their first five games last year, before finishing 4-7. After being routed by Wisconsin, 56-10, in the second week of the season, it

took them until the final six weeks to regain their confidence and pull off a win. But second-year coach Dave Baldwin is optimistic. "I know getting beat early hurt our psyche," he said, "but we redshirted our whole freshman class. We needed to get competition going; we didn't have a nucleus when we took over."

As for this season, expectations remain low. The Spartans have to play Brigham Young, Utah and New Mexico in a newly aligned Pacific Division that should keep them hovering in the bottom four, or more likely the bottom two. And road trips in September to Oregon and Stanford shouldn't help any. Producing their best conference record since '92 isn't a bad way to close a season. Now the Spartans have to figure out how to open one.

## OFFENSE

The Spartans' offense gave away 33 turnovers. "They weren't caused by great plays but more by our misexecuting, especially at quarterback. The balls we don't throw are more important than the balls we do throw," Baldwin said. That means more pressure on Brian Vye, who was benched midway through last season for his unproductive passing. He'll start again until Bobby Sabelhaus steps up and supplants him. Sabelhaus has the credentials but not the statistics after being at, but not playing for, Florida and West Virginia.

The running backs were supposed to be led by Carlos Meeks, but he decided to pursue a music career instead, which leaves Donte Scarbrough needing to prove he can produce. James Hodgins, recovering from leg and ankle

injuries, and Jeff Persson will have to emerge as threats to keep the pressure off Vye, who doesn't have reliable receivers.

Oliver Newell and Eric Ruhle are listed first but may not make the field. Newell, who led the Spartans with 58 receptions for 942 yards and wound up as an All-WAC selection, was a victim in a December shooting and is still recovering from his wounds. Ruhle has been bothered by a knee injury. Waking Bailey, who had 34 catches, and Gabe Payne, who had 33, should get a few looks.

Four players started at least six games in 1997 along the offensive line. Left tackle David Loverne, center Harry Daniels, right tackle Tom James and right guard Richie Castro will be counted on to give Vye time in the backfield. The vulnerability will be at left guard, which will certainly be manned by a newcomer.

## DEFENSE

When the hope and spirit of a team lies in the secondary, it's probably a sign of trouble. Free safety Lyle West had five interceptions and 128 tackles, and cornerback Omarr Smith was second nationally with seven interceptions. The Spartans tied for seventh nationally in pass interceptions with 20. They cut down the number of touchdown passes from 30 to 16 but opposing offenses penetrated too deep into the Spartans defense.

The defensive line has one returning starter in Abdul-Salam Noah, and the linebackers have only two experienced players back in Josh Parry, fourth on the team in tackles with 62, and Samson Sherrod. Depth is questionable as is the ability to stop the run.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker/punter David Silberstein is back but didn't attempt a field goal longer than 39 yards. He was 19 of 23 on extra points but only 6 of 9 on field goals. Zach McSweeney has been brought in to challenge him while freshman Nick Gilliam could compete for either job, considering Silberstein had a 38.4 punting average.

## RECRUITING

With Newell and Ruhle hurting, junior college transfers Steven Pulley and Antonio Harrison have been brought in to create a threat beyond the chains. Jose Gomez, Chris Fe'esago, Bruno Contreras and Erick Bakkedahl will bring depth to the offensive line. The defensive line could be taken over by newcomers with Al Faamausili the only one that was available for spring practice.

By Andy Katz

## SAN JOSE ST. Facts

**Coach:** Dave Baldwin, 2nd year, 7-16; 13-19 overall

**'97 Record:** 4-7 (4-4 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Spartan Stadium, San Jose, Calif. (31,218; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 17 (8 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Dan O'Dell, QB; Carlos Meeks, RB; Zach Michalski, LB; Eric Caughran, LB; Wardell Crutchfield, SS; Jason Chapple, P

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Brian Vye, Sr., 78-169-1019 yards, 5 TDs, 6 INTs

**Rushing:** James Hodgins, Sr., 50 carries, 237 yards, 1 TD

**Receiving (Catches):** Oliver Newell, Sr., 58, 11 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Newell, 942

**Tackles:** Lyle West, Sr., 128

**Sacks:** James Ditch, Jr., 4

**Interceptions:** Omarr Smith, Sr., 7

**Punting:** David Silberstein, Sr., 38.4 avg.

**Kicking:** Silberstein, 6-9 FGs (long 37), 19-23 PATs

**Scoring:** Newell, 66 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5	@ Stanford
9/12	IDAHO
9/19	@ Oregon
9/26	NEW MEXICO
10/3	@ Virginia
10/10	RICE
10/17	@ UTEP
10/24	@ BYU
10/31	UTAH
11/7	@ Hawaii
11/14	SAN DIEGO ST.
11/21	@ Fresno St.

## 1997 RESULTS

@ Stanford; L, 28-12
WISCONSIN; L, 56-10
@ Wyoming; L, 30-10
@ Oregon State; L, 26-12
COLORADO ST.; L, 55-20
@ UTEP; W, 10-7
AIR FORCE; W, 25-22
FRESNO STATE; L, 53-12
@ San Diego St.; L, 48-21
HAWAII; W, 38-14
@ UNLV; W, 55-48

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: B. Vye (Sr., 6-1, 194)	B. Sabelhaus (Jr., 6-5, 252)
RB: J. Hodgins (Sr., 6-1, 256)	D. Scarbrough (Jr., 5-8, 182)
WR: O. Newell (Sr., 5-8, 187)*	T. Banks (So., 5-9, 176)
WR: W. Bailey (So., 5-9, 177)*	E. Ruhle (Jr., 5-10, 180)
WR: G. Payne (Sr., 5-10, 177)*	S. Green (So., 6-1, 192)
TE: B. Knapp (Sr., 6-2, 238)*	J. Rogers (Jr., 6-3, 234)
LT: D. Loverne (Sr., 6-3, 297)*	C. Fe'esago (Fr., 6-3, 311)
LG: J. Santos (Fr., 6-4, 305)	J. Gomez (Fr., 6-2, 318)
C: H. Daniels (Sr., 6-2, 292)*	B. Contreras (Fr., 6-2, 297)
RT: T. James (Sr., 6-7, 317)*	E. Bakkedahl (Fr., 6-7, 296)
RG: R. Castro (Sr., 6-2, 285)*	G. Bylund (Fr., 6-2, 257)

### DEFENSE

DT: A.-S. Noah (Jr., 6-2, 276)*	J. Ditch (Jr., 6-4, 252)*
NG: A. Faamausili (Jr., 6-1, 289)	J. Mitchell (Jr., 6-2, 277)
DT: M. Peterson (Sr., 6-1, 253)	E. Lambert (So., 6-1, 250)
LB: J. Wucinich (Jr., 6-1, 233)	C. Delano (Sr., 6-2, 237)
LB: S. Sherrod (Jr., 6-4, 229)*	D. Coats (So., 6-2, 219)
LB: A. Viola (Jr., 5-11, 229)	A. Moran (So., 5-11, 220)
LB: J. Parry (So., 6-2, 235)*	S. Edwards (Sr., 6-1, 210)
CB: O. Smith (Sr., 5-8, 169)*	A. Johnson (Fr., 5-9, 176)
CB: G. Wadood (Sr., 5-8, 169)*	C. Lawson (Jr., 5-10, 177)
FS: L. West (Sr., 6-0, 201)*	M. Uhi (So., 5-9, 196)
FS: K.J. Agu (Sr., 6-3, 216)*	T. Seaton (So., 5-11, 188)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: D. Silberstein (Sr., 5-10, 172)*	Z. McSweeney (Sr., 5-11, 167)
P: D. Silberstein (Sr., 5-10, 172)	Z. McSweeney (Sr., 5-11, 167)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• The Spartans tied for seventh nationally in pass interceptions with 20 and were the only team nationally with three players ranked in the top 50 in interceptions.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

[www.proaxis.com/~bsalas/sjsu](http://www.proaxis.com/~bsalas/sjsu)



## UTAH Facts

**Coach:** Ron McBride, 9th year, 55-39  
**'97 Record:** 6-5 (5-3 conf.)  
**Home Stadium:** Rice Stadium, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 (46,500; grass)  
**Returning Starters:** 17 (6 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)  
**Key Players Lost:** Clarence Lawson, CB (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Kevin Dyson, WR (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Juan Johnson, RB (2nd-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala, RB; Ryan Akina, DE

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jonathan Crosswhite, Sr., 130-222-1,588 yards, 9 TDs, 9 INTs  
**Rushing:** Darnell Arceneaux, So., 46 carries, 208 yards, 3 TDs  
**Receiving (Catches):** Daniel Jones, Sr., 41, 5 TDs  
**Receiving (Yards):** Jones, 626  
**Tackles:** Robert Love, Sr., 92  
**Sacks:** Mike Thomas, Sr., 5  
**Interceptions:** Phil Glover, Sr., 2  
**Punting:** Chris Hunter, Jr., 43.7 avg.  
**Kicking:** Tommy Truhe, Jr., 14-22 FGs (long 48), 25-29 PATs  
**Scoring:** Truhe, 67 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Utah State  
 9/12 LOUISVILLE  
 9/19 HAWAII  
 9/26 BOISE STATE  
 10/3 @ Wyoming  
 10/17 FRESNO STATE  
 10/24 @ San Diego St.  
 10/31 @ San Jose State  
 11/7 UTEP  
 11/14 @ New Mexico  
 11/21 BYU

### 1997 RESULTS

UTAH STATE; L, 21-14  
 @ LOUISVILLE; W, 27-21  
 @ TCU; W, 32-18  
 UTEP; W, 56-3  
 @ Fresno State; L, 27-13  
 SMU; L, 20-19  
 @ Oregon; L, 31-13  
 NEW MEXICO; W, 15-10  
 @ Tulsa; L, 21-13  
 RICE; W, 31-14  
 @ BYU; W, 20-14

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: D. Arceneaux (So., 6-1, 187)\* J. Crosswhite (Sr., 6-2, 210)  
 RB: O. Bacon (Jr., 6-1, 208) T. Fortune (Fr., 6-3, 226)  
 SB: D. Utu (Jr., 6-1, 196) B. Bendinger (Jr., 6-0, 222)\*  
 WR: J. Anderson (Sr., 5-11, 178) D. Posey (6-2, 205, Jr.)  
 WR: D. Jones (Sr., 5-11, 182)\* C. Christensen (So., 5-11, 177)  
 TE: C. J. Johnson (Sr., 6-1, 230) A. Kassotis (Jr., 6-3, 273)  
 LT: N. Sybrowsky (Sr., 6-4, 327)\* D. Kaufusi (Fr., 6-7, 300)  
 LG: S. White (So., 6-3, 280) L. Park (Jr., 6-2, 300)  
 C: D. Walker (Sr., 6-3, 295)\* S. McKane (So., 6-1, 244)  
 RG: T. Jackson (Sr., 6-3, 311) H. Katooa (Sr., 6-4, 354)  
 RT: J. Cochran (Sr., 6-5, 307)\* K. Wilson (Fr., 6-7, 306)

### DEFENSE

DE: J. Frank (Jr., 6-5, 271) E. Matagi (Jr., 6-3, 241)\*  
 DT: M. Thomas (Sr., 6-1, 303)\* T. Hingano (Jr., 6-4, 267)  
 NG: P. Talamaiavao (Sr., 6-4, 313)\* B. Talaal (Jr., 6-0, 258)  
 DE: B. Enosa (Jr., 6-4, 270) A. Bowers (So., 6-5, 262)  
 LB: P. Glover (Sr., 6-0, 237)\* W. Tufaga (So., 6-0, 216)  
 LB: T. Lave (Jr., 6-1, 255)\* C. Satoaifaiga (Sr., 6-0, 261)  
 LB: J. Hooks (Sr., 6-3, 262) D. Purcell (Sr., 6-1, 238)\*  
 CB: T. Ethridge (Jr., 5-10, 188)\* J. Hill (Jr., 6-1, 186)  
 CB: D. Richards (Sr., 6-0, 187) A. Dyson (So., 5-10, 184)  
 SS: R. Love (Sr., 5-9, 203)\* B. Dart (Sr., 6-2, 203)  
 FS: K. Christianson (So., 6-3, 209)\* J. Allen (Sr., 5-11, 207)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: T. Truhe (Jr., 5-11, 201)\* M. Comins (Fr., 6-4, 198)  
 P: C. Hunter (Jr., 6-5, 232)\* M. Comins (Fr., 6-4, 198)

\* Denotes returning starter

### MILESTONE

• All-time leading receiver Kevin Dyson was drafted No. 16 overall by Tennessee, the highest a Ute has ever gone in the NFL draft.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.athletics.utah.edu

# Utah



DANIEL JONES-WR

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Ground game has become a question and needs to be solved.
- Someone has to replace Kevin Dyson's effectiveness.
- Cornerbacks can't be easy pickings.

Utah could very well be talented enough to win the WAC Pacific Division, but picking them as the favorite may say more about the level of play in the league this season than it does about Utah. After all, on paper the Utes look to be weaker than last season's squad that finished one victory short of qualifying for a bowl game. Gone from last year's team is wide receiver Kevin Dyson, a first-round pick in the 1998 NFL Draft, running backs Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala, also a draft selection, and Juan Johnson, and All-WAC cornerback Clarence Lawson.

Still, 17 starters return, and the heart of the team will be along both lines. "We'll take a while to mature, and I'm not sure how good we'll be, but once we put together everything we've got a chance," coach Ron McBride said. "The defensive front is where it starts. If we're not good there, we'll struggle. But I think both defensive and offensive fronts will be where we'll be strong. We've got real physical guys up there."

The Utes catch a break with their schedule as four of their first six games are at home. If they can get off to a strong start, they could find themselves in the WAC title game.

### OFFENSE

This unit will be in the capable hands of either Darnell Arceneaux, who started the final two games and led the Utes to victories over Rice and BYU, or Jonathan Crosswhite, who was improved over the spring and could end up starting the season once again. They have contrasting styles, with Arceneaux exhibiting a scrambling quality that allows him to improvise, while Crosswhite is a classic drop-back quarterback who completed 59 percent of his passes last season. McBride is comfortable with either one and both should see time this season.

The new backfield will include Omar Bacon, who redshirted last year, and Roy Allen, Utah's third option a year ago. Both have breakaway speed. Redshirt freshman Thomas Fortune proved to be the sleeper in spring camp and could step into the starting lineup if either falters.

"We redshirted Omar with the idea of him taking Juan's place because we thought Chris would have another year," McBride said. "Fortune's a big, fast guy who can run, [so] we may have dodged a bullet there."

At wide receiver, Daniel Jones, who runs a 4.4 40, will provide a deep threat. Jerome Anderson can go deep, too, but may see more looks as the possession receiver. The line is huge, averaging 308 pounds a man, and experienced, with four seniors and a sophomore starting.

### DEFENSE

The Utes have good depth on the defensive front, led by All-WAC performer Pene Talamaiavao at nose guard and Mike

Thomas at tackle. All-American JUCO transfer Rod Talaai joins those two on the inside, and John Frank and Bobby Enosa line up outside at end.

All-WAC linebacker Phil Glover, a candidate for WAC Defensive Player of the Year, returns to lead this unit. He's joined by Taulia Lave and Cyrus Satoaifaiga, who will split time in the middle, and Jason Hooks and Dicky Purcell, who will both see time at the other outside spot.

The Utes return three of four starters in the secondary, but the one they lose is All-WAC selection Clarence Lawson. Strong safety Robert Love, the team's leading tackler for two straight seasons, anchors this group.

McBride understands that there is plenty of work to be done with this unit. "Our pass rush wasn't good enough last year, but we have improved ourselves against the run," McBride said. "We've got to improve our coverage, too."

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Chris Hunter had 12 punts of 50 yards or more in 1997. Kicker Chris Truhe was hampered by a foot problem but still averaged 1.3 field goals a game, second in the WAC.

### RECRUITING

McBride brought in a bunch of JUCO transfers—watch out for All-American running back Mike Anderson, slot back Demetrius Posey, and defensive end Ed Johnson.

By Andy Katz





JASON SMITH-NT

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Overhauled secondary has to develop quickly.
- Defense must continue strong overall play.
- John Rayborn and Elzie Johnson need to improve on last season's numbers.

UTEP may have finally turned a corner last year. After beginning the season in typical fashion by losing three straight (combined score: 149-26), the Miners finished four up and four down the rest of the way. For coach Charlie Bailey, who had won just seven games in his three previous seasons in El Paso, the change in his team's play was discernable.

"We came together after those first three games and played very competitive football the rest of the season," Bailey said. "We were close at halftime with Clemson, had an opportunity against SMU but couldn't get it done after our kicker got hurt, and we lost to San Jose State on a punt return."

Now Bailey and his staff have to build on the momentum generated by his team's improved play. The Miners finished the season ranked 44th in the nation in total defense, a huge jump from the year before. Bailey expects more of the same for '98—on both sides of the ball.

"We've got better athletes who have learned our new system," he said. "We're going into the fall with the same coaches back and the same system. The same things are coming out of people's mouths. That alone will make us a heck of a lot better."

## OFFENSE

The reason there's optimism is that everyone is back at the skill positions, led by John Rayborn and Rocky Perez at quarterback. Rayborn injured his knee against Brigham Young in the team's seventh game and Perez came in to lead the Miners to the upset. Each was equally effective during his time on the field, and going into the season Rayborn was the nominal starter with Perez likely to see time as well.

UTEP also returns its top three backs.

Elzie Johnson (526 yards, 4.1 ypc), Joseph Polk (471 yards, 3.3 ypc) and Paul Smith (432 yards, 3.8 ypc) give the Miners plenty of flexibility out of the backfield. Jimmy Carpenter is the top returning wide receiver after a career-high 47 receptions for 767 yards and three touchdowns last season, one of which was an 80-yarder against Tulsa. He's joined by Keonta Golson at the other wideout slot.

The line, which returns two interior starters plus tight end Brian Natkin, has been reworked somewhat with last year's starter at right guard, Alan Gray, now moving out to right tackle. However, last year's freshman starter at center, Carey Clayton, is back to hold down the fort in the middle.

## DEFENSE

Bailey is convinced the front seven will be the best he's ever had at UTEP. Brian Young, Jason Smith and Leif Larsen return across the front three. Smith and Young were both first-team All-WAC performers last season. The linebackers will be led by Dale Kirry, who was

second on the team in tackles with 88 and had a personal best 11 tackles against Utah, and Derek Wright. Newcomers Hal Stansbury and Eric Wells, a pair of juniors with good size, fill out the remaining linebacker slots in the Miners' three-four alignment.

Although right corner David Cotchery is back, Bailey knows his secondary was dealt a blow when Michael Hicks opted to try the NFL draft instead of returning for his senior season. "I am concerned about the secondary," Bailey said. "That's where our question marks will be this year."

Replacing Hicks at left corner will be senior Darius Ellison, whose two interceptions tied for the team lead with Kirry and the departed Hicks. Another senior, Rachaud Crawford, will take over at strong safety, and sophomore Matthew Fambro will be the starter at free safety.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Ricky Bishop made 3 of 5 field goals before a season-ending knee injury at Clemson. Ola Kimrin stepped in and was more than effective in Bishop's absence. Matt Finley averaged 39.6 yards a kick, numbers that Bailey would like to see improve.

## RECRUITING

The top JUCO transfer is linebacker Jim Hur, who should see some time in a backup role, as should transfer Nick Salinas at cornerback.

By Andy Katz

## UTEP Facts

**Coach:** Charlie Bailey, 5th year, 11-38-1; 23-58-3 overall  
**'97 Record:** 4-7 (3-5 conf.)

**Home Stadium:** Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas (52,000; artificial)

**Returning Starters:** 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Haikilangi Muagututia, SS (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Anwar White, OL (1st-team All-WAC Mountain Division); Joe Riccillo, FS; Zach Wirth, LB; Michael Hicks, CB; Jason Young, LB

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Rocky Perez, So., 58-114-728 yards, 2 TDs, 4 INTs

**Rushing:** Elzie Johnson, Jr., 127 carries, 526 yards, 2 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Jimmy Carpenter, Sr., 47, 3 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Carpenter, 767 yards

**Tackles:** Dale Kirry, Sr., 88

**Sacks:** Kirry, Brian Young, Jr., Jason Smith, Sr., 3

**Interceptions:** Kirry, Darius Ellison, Sr., 2

**Punting:** Matthew Finley, Sr., 39.6 avg.

**Kicking:** Ricky Bishop, So., 3-5 FGs (long 42), 6-6 PATs

**Scoring:** Carpenter, 18 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/5 @ Texas Tech  
9/12 OREGON  
9/26 @ New Mexico St.  
10/3 COLORADO ST.  
10/10 @ New Mexico  
10/17 SAN JOSE STATE  
10/24 @ Fresno State  
10/31 HAWAII  
11/7 @ Utah  
11/14 BYU  
11/21 @ San Diego St.

## 1997 RESULTS

@ LSU; L, 55-3  
NEW MEXICO; L, 38-20  
@ Utah; L, 56-3  
NEW MEXICO ST.; W, 24-16  
@ Clemson; L, 39-7  
@ Tulsa; W, 33-18  
SAN JOSE STATE; L, 10-7  
BYU; W, 14-3  
SMU; L, 28-14  
TCU; W, 24-17  
@ Rice; L, 31-13

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: J. Rayborn (Sr., 6-2, 230)\* R. Perez (So., 6-0, 192)  
RB: J. Polk (Sr., 5-11, 204)\* J. Sanchez (Jr., 5-9, 190)  
FB: E. Johnson (Jr., 6-1, 200)\* P. Smith (Jr., 6-0, 229)  
WR: K. Golson (Sr., 5-10, 190)\* A. Ray (So., 6-2, 188)  
WR: J. Carpenter (Sr., 6-1, 190)\* J. Thompson (Sr., 6-1, 200)  
TE: B. Natkin (So., 6-4, 250)\* C. Johnston (Jr., 6-3, 206)  
LT: M. Deal (Sr., 6-6, 305) R. Carter (Jr., 6-6, 320)  
LG: B. Hunt (So., 6-6, 285) Y. Turner (Jr., 6-5, 285)  
C: C. Clayton (So., 6-5, 275)\* M. Pry (Jr., 6-3, 300)  
RG: J. Seeton (So., 6-5, 303) B. Davis (Jr., 6-2, 280)  
RT: A. Gray (Sr., 6-5, 290)\* J. Ruiz (Jr., 6-3, 285)

### DEFENSE

DE: B. Young (Jr., 6-3, 265)\* D. Yates (So., 6-7, 255)  
NT: J. Smith (Sr., 6-4, 255)\* G. Banks (Sr., 6-2, 295)  
DE: L. Larsen (Jr., 6-5, 289)\* B. King (Fr., 6-3, 260)  
LB: H. Stansbury (Jr., 6-2, 248) A. Kelley (Sr., 6-1, 240)  
LB: D. Kirry (Sr., 6-2, 225)\* C. Ray (Jr., 6-0, 222)  
LB: E. Wells (Jr., 6-0, 240) R. Weathers (Jr., 5-10, 215)  
LB: D. Wright (Sr., 6-3, 222)\* C. Wade (Jr., 6-2, 225)  
CB: D. Ellison (Sr., 5-10, 165) N. Salinas (Jr., 5-10, 180)  
CB: D. Cotchery (Sr., 5-11, 180)\* A. J. Sheppard (So., 5-10, 176)  
SS: R. Crawford (Sr., 6-2, 210) D. Walker (So., 6-2, 190)  
FS: M. Fambro (So., 6-3, 190) R. Molina (So., 5-11, 180)

## SPECIAL TEAMS

K: R. Bishop (So., 5-10, 188)\* O. Kimrin (So., 6-3, 210)  
P: M. Finley (Sr., 6-1, 178)\* J. Rayborn (Sr., 6-2, 230)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• In two years, the UTEP defense has improved from 105th to 44th in the nation.

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.utep.edu/paydirt



## PREDICTED STANDINGS

1. Notre Dame
2. Central Florida
3. Navy
4. Louisiana Tech
5. Alabama-Birmingham
6. NE Louisiana
7. Arkansas St.
8. SW Louisiana

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

### Offensive

**Player of the Year**  
Daunte Culpepper,  
Central Florida

### Defensive

**Player of the Year**  
Kory Minor,  
Notre Dame

### Newcomer

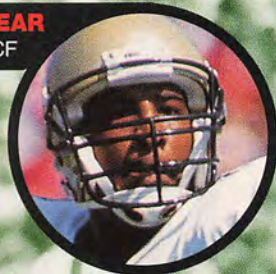
Reginald Cooley,  
Arkansas St.

## 3 BIGGEST GAMES

- **Sept. 5**  
Michigan @ Notre Dame
- **Nov. 7**  
Central Florida @ Auburn
- **Nov. 28**  
Navy vs. Army

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Daunte Culpepper, UCF



# Indy

## [Independents]

## All-Indy Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: D. Culpepper	6-5/240	Sr.	Central Florida
RB: Autry Denson	5-10/200	Sr.	Notre Dame
RB: Lucious Foster	5-10/185	Jr.	Ala.-Birm.
WR: Siaha Burley	6-0/189	Sr.	Central Florida
WR: Troy Edwards	5-11/195	Sr.	Louisiana Tech
TE: Jabari Holloway	6-3/250	So.	Notre Dame
OL: Mike Rosenthal	6-7/315	Sr.	Notre Dame
OL: James Landers	6-4/318	Sr.	NE Louisiana
OL: Luke Pettigout	6-6/308	Sr.	Notre Dame
OL: Jerry Wisne	6-7/300	Sr.	Notre Dame
OL: Cornell Green	6-6/310	Sr.	Central Florida
PK: Tom Vanderhorst	6-0/185	Sr.	Navy

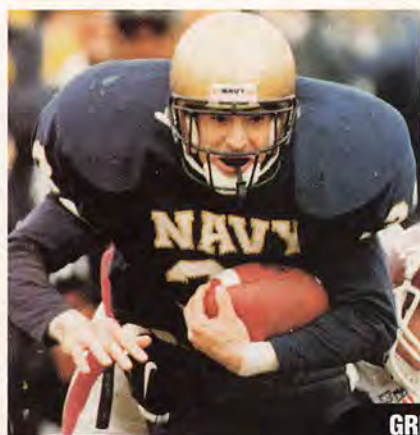
### [DEFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL: Jason Snider	6-3/258	Sr.	Central Florida
DL: Lamont Bryant	6-3/247	Jr.	Notre Dame
DL: Clarence Williams	6-4/225	Sr.	Arkansas St.
DL: Brad Williams	6-5/280	Jr.	Notre Dame
LB: Kory Minor	6-1/235	Sr.	Notre Dame
LB: Bobbie Howard	5-10/232	Sr.	Notre Dame
LB: Grant Irons	6-5/252	So.	Notre Dame
DB: Pat Dennis	6-0/184	So.	NE Louisiana
DB: Benny Guilbeaux	6-2/212	Sr.	Notre Dame
DB: Reginald Cooley	6-2/210	Jr.	Arkansas St.
DB: Brian Taylor	5-11/190	Sr.	NE Louisiana
P: Hunter Smith	6-2/211	Sr.	Notre Dame

► Central Florida receiver Siaha Burley is Daunte Culpepper's go-to guy and could contend for All-America honors in '98.

BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT; PAUL CHAPMAN/ESP





JASON WOLF-SB

## GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- **New starting QB Steve Holley must be the real McCoy.**
- **Completely rebuilt defense (10 new starters) must gel quickly.**
- **A workhorse running back must emerge.**

Charlie Weatherbie took over a Navy program that was taking on water in the early 1990s and in just three seasons, he has righted the ship. Last year was the first time since 1981-82 that the Mids put together back-to-back winning seasons. In a profession where most guys are one botched field goal away from the unemployment line, Weatherbie has unheard-of job security after inking a 10-year contract extension back in 1996.

"We want the Naval Academy football program to be a consistent winner," said Weatherbie. "Two seasons in a row is nice but that is just the tip of the iceberg. We want winning football to be synonymous with the Naval Academy."

That's not likely this fall. Weatherbie must replace seven starters on offense, and 10 starters on defense from last year's 7-4 squad.

## OFFENSE

The graduation of option whiz kid Chris McCoy leaves quite a hole in Navy's offense. Last season, McCoy rushed for 1,370 yards and 20 TDs, an NCAA record for a quarterback. He also completed 69 of 135 passing attempts for 1,203 yards and 11 more TDs. Randell Jones, the starter on the Naval Academy Prep School team last year, surprisingly elected to attend the University of Maryland. With Jones gone, junior Steve Holley (McCoy's backup last year) has emerged as the probable opening day starter, with senior Jon Lambert, who saw limited varsity action in 1997, a close second.

Steady fullback Tim Cannada (792 yards, 9 TDs) is gone, but seniors Irv Dingle (221, 1 TD) and Matt Harden (93, 1 TD) should ably fill that void. The all-senior starting troop of backs will run behind a reshuffled line that returns a pair of starters in senior right tackle Blaine Kindler and senior left guard J.D.

Gainey, who is rehabbing from offseason knee surgery.

At receiver, senior Mark Mill (9 catches in 1997), and promising junior Travis Williams (6, 108 yards) will start. But the team's inspirational leader will be junior wideout Damon Myers, who will attempt to rejoin the team this fall after taking massive doses of chemotherapy all winter to battle a Stage IV case of lymphoma.

## DEFENSE

Last season, Weatherbie's crew—which ranked sixth in the country in total defense with 277.6 ypg allowed—included more seniors than a church bingo night. Now, all but one of his 11 starters are gone. The one returner is 6-3, 258-pound senior right tackle Jason Snider (26 tackles, two sacks in '97) who, when teamed with the departed Dave Viger (6-2, 280), formed half of a terrifying twosome of tackles in 1997.

The linebacking corps lost four key performers to graduation and the fifth, junior projected starter Jake Bowen, to a two-year Mormon mission. The only proven hands on deck is senior Brad Chatlos, who only played passing downs last fall. Keith Mier, who appeared in six games last season, tore the ACL and MCL in his right knee this spring and is lost for the entire season. Sophomore Daryl Hill, who has loads of potential but no experience, will step in for the injured Mier.

Gone are all five starters from Weatherbie's secondary, including leading tackler Gervy Alota (105 tackles). Sophomore Davede Alexander and senior Enrico Hunter have won the starting cornerback jobs in Navy's 4-2-5 defense, while the safety jobs go to seniors Adam Crecion, Desmond Morgan and junior Gary Lane.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Tom Vanderhorst, now a senior, nailed 14 of 20 field goals last year, including 14 of 16 inside of 40 yards. His 75 points last season tied for the second most in a single season in Navy history. Neither junior Trey Calish nor sophomore Evan Papidakis have any extensive varsity experience at punter. Calish holds a slight lead over Papidakis after spring ball. The graduation of Pat McGrew, third in the nation in kickoff returns with a 29.4 yard average, will hurt the Middies' return game.

## RECRUITING

The service academies aren't allowed to comment on recruits until late summer.

By Bill Doherty

## NAVY Facts

**Coach:** Charlie Weatherbie, 3rd year, 21-13; 36-32 overall  
**'97 Record:** 7-4

**Home Stadium:** Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Annapolis, Md. (30,000; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 6 (4 off., 1 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Chris McCoy, QB; Dave Viger, DT; Tim Cannada, FB; Pat McGrew, RB; Gervy Alota, FS; Travis Cooley, LB; Jason Coffey, LB; Kevin Lewis, SS

## LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Steve Holley, Jr., 1-2-21 yards

**Rushing:** Manny Metcalf, Sr., 35 carries, 234 yards

**Receiving (Catches):** Metcalf and Mark Mill, Srs., 9 each

**Receiving (Yards):** Jason Wolf, Jr., 148 yards

**Tackles:** Jason Snider, Sr., 26

**Sacks:** Snider, Sr., and David Ryno, Jr., 2

**Interceptions:** Brad Chatlos and Enrico Hunter, Srs., 1

**Punting:** None

**Kicking:** Tom Vanderhorst, Sr., 14-20 FGs (long 36), 33-37 PATs

**Scoring:** Vanderhorst, 75 points

## 1998 SCHEDULE

9/10 @ Wake Forest  
9/19 KENT  
9/26 @ Tulane  
10/3 WEST VIRGINIA  
10/10 @ Air Force  
10/17 COLGATE  
10/24 @ Boston College  
11/7 RUTGERS  
11/14 NOTRE DAME\*  
11/21 SMU  
11/28 vs. Army\*\*

\* Cooke Stadium, Landover, Md.

\*\* Veterans Stadium, Phil., Pa.

## 1997 RESULTS

@ San Diego State; L, 45-31  
RUTGERS; W, 36-7  
@ SMU; W, 46-16  
@ Duke; L, 26-17  
AIR FORCE; L, 10-7  
VMI; W, 42-7  
@ Notre Dame; L, 21-17  
TEMPLE; W, 49-17  
COLGATE; W, 52-24  
KENT; W, 62-29  
vs. Army; W, 39-7\*

\* Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: S. Holley (Jr., 6-1, 190) J. Lambert (Sr., 5-10, 195)  
FB: I. Dingle (Sr., 5-11, 213) M. Harden (Sr., 5-11, 220)  
SB: M. Metcalf (Sr., 6-0, 186)\* M. Nelson (Jr., 5-10, 200)  
SB: J. Wolf (Sr., 6-0, 196) J. Vereen (Jr., 5-9, 186)  
WR: M. Mill (Sr., 6-0, 181)\* M. O'Donnell (Jr., 6-1, 185)  
WR: T. Williams (Sr., 6-4, 185) R. Read (So., 6-0, 180)  
LT: K. Hatzidakis (Jr., 6-2, 250) P. Singleton (Jr., 6-1, 250)  
LG: J.D. Gainey (Sr., 6-1, 281)\* D. Peterson (Sr., 6-6, 300)  
C: T. Anderson (Jr., 6-0, 220) D. Howard (Jr., 6-2, 211)  
RG: B. Brown (Jr., 6-2, 265) E. Hinman (Sr., 6-2, 250)  
RT: B. Kindler (Sr., 6-0, 255)\* H. Stahl (So., 6-5, 250)

### DEFENSE

DE: B. Wimsatt (So., 6-4, 230) I. Garvin (Jr., 6-2, 217)  
DT: J. McCray (So., 6-2, 245) G. Adams (Sr., 6-1, 235)  
DT: J. Snider (Sr., 6-3, 258)\* D. Ryno (Jr., 6-3, 235)  
DE: G. Marchetti (Jr., 6-2, 245) D. Rautenbach (Jr., 6-6, 220)  
LB: D. Hill (So., 6-0, 200) M. Daigneault (Jr., 6-2, 220)  
LB: B. Chatlos (Sr., 6-0, 202) J. McIlvain (Jr., 6-2, 200)  
CB: D. Alexander (So., 5-8, 170) C. Fletcher (Sr., 6-0, 190)  
CB: E. Hunter (Sr., 5-11, 191) J. Grant (So., 5-11, 191)  
SS: G. Lane (Jr., 5-11, 190) M. Wilkins (Sr., 5-10, 191)  
FS: A. Crecion (Sr., 6-0, 200) C. Lepore (So., 6-0, 193)  
WS: D. Morgan (Sr., 5-10, 202) J. Chavous (Jr., 5-11, 195)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: T. Vanderhorst (Sr., 6-0, 185)\* T. Shubzda (Jr., 6-0, 191)  
P: T. Calish (Jr., 5-11, 180) E. Papidakis (So., 6-0, 175)

\* Denotes returning starter

## MILESTONE

• Weatherbie's 21-13 record is the best start by a Navy coach since Wayne Hardin started 22-11-1 in his three seasons (1959-61).

## INTERNET ADDRESS

www.navy sports.com



## NOTRE DAME Facts

**Coach:** Bob Davie, 2nd year, 7-6

**'97 Record:** 7-6

**Home Stadium:** Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend, Ind. (80,225; grass)

**Returning Starters:** 15 (7 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Key Players Lost:** Ron Powlus, QB; Mike Doughty, OT; Rick Kaczinski, C; Allen Rossum, CB-KR; Melvin Dansby, DE; Ivory Covington, CB; Scott Cengia, PK

### LEADING RETURNEE STATISTICS

**Passing:** Jarious Jackson, Jr., 8-17-146 yards, 1 TD, 1 INT

**Rushing:** Autry Denson, Sr., 264 carries, 1,268 yards, 12 TDs

**Receiving (Catches):** Bobby Brown, Sr., 45, 6 TDs

**Receiving (Yards):** Malcolm Johnson, Sr., 596

**Tackles:** Jimmy Friday, Sr., 109

**Sacks:** Kory Minor, Sr., 3.5

**Interceptions:** Benny Guilbeaux, Sr., 4

**Punting:** Hunter Smith, Sr., 42.6 avg.

**Kicking:** Jim Sanson, Jr., 5-10 FGs (long 45), 15-16 PATs

**Scoring:** Denson, 78 points

### 1998 SCHEDULE

Sept. 5 MICHIGAN  
Sept. 12 @ Michigan St.  
Sept. 26 PURDUE  
Oct. 3 STANFORD  
Oct. 10 @ Arizona St.  
Oct. 24 ARMY  
Oct. 31 BAYLOR  
Nov. 7 @ Boston Coll.  
Nov. 14 @ Navy  
Nov. 21 LSU  
Nov. 28 @ USC

### 1997 RESULTS

GEORGIA TECH; W, 17-13  
@ Purdue; L, 28-17  
MICHIGAN ST.; L, 23-7  
@ Michigan; L, 21-14  
@ Stanford; L, 33-15  
PITTSBURGH; W, 45-21  
USC; L, 20-17  
BOSTON COLLEGE; W, 52-20  
NAVY; W, 21-17  
@ LSU; W, 24-6  
WEST VIRGINIA; W, 21-14  
@ Hawaii; W, 23-22  
vs. LSU; L, 27-9\*

\*in Independence Bowl

### TWO-DEEP ROSTER

#### OFFENSE

QB: J. Jackson (Jr., 6-0, 220) Eric Chappell (Jr., 6-4, 225)  
RB: A. Denson (Sr., 5-10, 200)\* D. Levy (So., 6-2, 204)  
FB: J. Spencer (Sr., 6-1, 257) J. Murray (So., 6-1, 245)  
WR: M. Johnson (Sr., 6-5, 220)\* J. Getherall (So., 5-7, 165)  
WR: B. Brown (Sr., 6-3, 193)\* B. Nelson (Jr., 5-11, 176)  
TE: J. Holloway (So., 6-3, 250)\* D. O'Leary (Jr., 6-5, 245)  
LT: M. Rosenthal (Sr., 6-7, 315)\* J. Teasdale (So., 6-5, 295)  
LG: T. Ridder (Sr., 6-5, 295) J. Jones (Jr., 6-3, 290)  
C: J. Merandi (Jr., 6-3, 290) J. Jordan (So., 6-0, 286)  
RG: J. Wisne (Sr., 6-7, 300)\* M. Gandy (Jr., 6-6, 290)  
RT: L. Pettigout (Sr., 6-6, 308)\* M. Brennan (Jr., 6-7, 282)

#### DEFENSE

DE: B. Williams (Jr., 6-5, 280)\* K. Vollers (So., 6-7, 270)  
NG: L. Legree (Jr., 6-1, 287) A. Jones (Sr., 6-3, 275)  
DE: L. Bryant (Sr., 6-3, 247)\* J. Ching (Jr., 6-3, 260)  
LB: G. Irons (So., 6-5, 252) J. Ferrer (Jr., 6-2, 230)  
LB: J. Friday (Sr., 6-2, 235)\* B. Nicks (Jr., 6-1, 230)  
LB: B. Howard (Sr., 5-10, 232)\* J. Thomas (Sr., 6-2, 230)  
LB: K. Minor (Sr., 6-1, 235)\* A. Denman (So., 6-1, 220)  
CB: B. Williams (So., 5-10, 187) T. Goode (Sr., 5-11, 188)  
CB: D. Harper (Jr., 5-11, 186)\* L. Lafayette (Jr., 5-10, 197)  
SS: B. Guilbeaux (Sr., 6-2, 212)\* A. Sanders (Sr., 5-11, 188)  
FS: T. Driver (So., 6-2, 210) B. Israel (So., 6-0, 194)

#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: J. Sanson (Jr., 5-9, 183) D. Miller (Fr., 6-0, 180)  
P: H. Smith (Sr., 6-2, 211)\* D. Miller (Fr., 6-0, 180)

#### MILESTONE

• Senior wide receivers Bobby Brown and Malcolm Johnson became the first Irish receiving duo in history to top 40 receptions in the same season.

#### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.und.com



# Notre Dame



AUTRY DENSON-RB

It's funny, but everything seems to come back in style—whether we're talking tie-dye shirts or John Travolta as a Hollywood leading man. Just one year ago, Notre Dame coach Bob Davie talked about installing the same pass-happy style of ball that Steve Spurrier and Bobby Bowden utilize to churn out 10-win seasons. Now, some 365 days later, Davie has invited an old Lou Holtz staple back to South Bend: The triple option.

Frankly, Davie never seemed comfortable chucking the ball all over the place as the Fighting Irish did last year when fifth-year senior Ron Powlus set a single-season school record for pass attempts (317). The new man under center (and under the microscope) will be 6-foot, 220-pound junior Jarious Jackson, who possesses all the tools to be an option whiz.

Notre Dame's flashback attack better work immediately because the Irish open with defending national champ Michigan and will tackle four 1997 bowl teams by the second weekend in October.

### OFFENSE

Notre Dame's green quarterback figures to be the most media-scrutinized Jackson since Michael, but Davie doesn't seem worried. "Jarious has unlimited potential because he can both run and throw," Davie said.

Bet on Jackson and the Irish doing more running than throwing. After all, they possess a legitimate All-American candidate in senior tailback Autry Denson, who should graduate as the school's all-time leading rusher (he needs just 999 yards to surpass current No. 1 Allen Pinkett). Another beefy offensive line is anchored by seniors Mike Rosenthal, Luke Pettigout and Jerry Wisne.

When opposing teams try to choke off ND's ground game by putting eight defenders

in the box, Jackson has some proven targets to play catch with in seniors Malcolm Johnson (42 catches, 596 yards in 1997) and Bobby Brown (45, 543 yards).

### DEFENSE

There are serious questions along the three-man defensive front. Projected starting ends Lamont Bryant (knee) and Brad Williams (broken foot) are coming back from injuries, while nose guard Lance Legree is an every down player for the first time at Notre Dame.

The strength of the defense will no doubt be its four starting linebackers, including NFL

prospect Kory Minor (85 tackles) at one of the outside spots. Seniors Jimmy Friday (team-best 109 tackles) and Bobbie Howard (91 tackles in seven games before suffering a knee injury) should be dynamite inside. Another name to remember: Sophomore rush outside linebacker Grant Irons (50 tackles in 1997), who arrived at ND at 215 pounds but is now a robust 252 and still runs like a deer.

The strong safety spot is well-stocked with returnees Benny Guilbeaux (68 tackles, 4 INTs) and A'Jani Sanders (58 tackles),

while converted tailback Tony Driver (6-2, 210) was impressive at free safety during spring ball. Both 1997 starting corners (Allen Rossum and Ivory Covington) are gone, so sophomore Brock Williams, fifth-year senior Ty Goode and juniors Lee Lafayette and Deveron Harper are all auditioning to replace them. Incoming high school All-American corners Donald Dykes and Clifford Jefferson could also figure in the mix.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Senior punter Hunter Smith, who averaged 42.6 yards per boot last season, returns for his fourth straight season. The kicking game is less settled because Jim Sanson (11 of 19 career FGs) was slowed this spring by a pulled leg muscle. With Rossum now a Philadelphia Eagle, Joey Getherall will return punts, while Driver and Darcy Levy will handle kickoff returns.

### RECRUITING

Davie addressed the team's need for speed with a top-five rated class. Tailbacks Terrance Howard and Tony Fisher could both play as true freshman. Davie upgraded his wide receiver depth by landing highly touted Javin Hunter and David Givens. For good measure, Davie signed one of the nation's premier linebackers, Carlos Pierre-Antoine, from Seattle.

By Bill Doherty



## **ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM Blazers**

**Coach:** Watson Brown, 4th year, 15-18; 47-95-1 overall

**'97 Record:** 5-6

**Stadium/Location:** Legion Field (83,091)/Birmingham, Ala.

**Key Players Lost:** Dainon Sidney, CB; Alan Willis, FS; Izell Reese, SS; Johnny Rea, C; Mark Reaves, OT; Kevin Drake, WR

**Returning Starters:** 17 (8 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Nebraska; Sept. 19 TENNESSEE TECH; Sept. 26 KANSAS; Oct. 3 SW LOUISIANA; Oct. 10 @ East Carolina; Oct. 17 @ Louisiana Tech; Oct. 24 VIRGINIA TECH; Oct. 31 @ NE Louisiana; Nov. 7 @ Tennessee; Nov. 14 MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE; Nov. 21 TENNESSEE-MARTIN

**OVERVIEW:** Most Division I-A coaches would take the easy road with a young football program like Alabama-Birmingham. Most would put together a schedule as soft as a 10-year-old mattress, pile up countless "W's" and pats on the back. But not UAB coach Watson Brown. He knows he needs to win enough games to keep the program's growth going (UAB was a mere club team 10 years ago), but at the same time expose his team to what life will be like next year, when the Blazers become full-fledged football members of Conference USA.

Brown will once again play a hodgepodge of a schedule that makes it difficult to be anything but mediocre, although there are reasons to be encouraged. Brown has a young star-in-the-making in sophomore quarterback Lee Jolly. The 6-2, 180-pounder rewrote the school's still-young record books last fall, when he completed 108 of 209 tosses for 1,530 yards, 11 TDs and 7 INTs. He closed 1997 without an interception in his last four games. "We will continue to try to be 50 percent run and 50 percent pass," said Brown, "but we will lean toward the pass this year."

For Jolly to surpass his passing totals of last year, he must find a new go-to guy to replace the departed Kevin Drake. The most likely suspect is junior Darrius Malone, who was second on the team a year ago with 28 catches for 435 yards and three scores.

The ground game appears to be in capable hands. Junior Lucious Harris started eight games in '98 and lead the team with 737 yards. The Blazers' youthful offensive line needs to develop quickly or they'll be carted off the field in the opener against Nebraska. The steadying influences up front will be right tackle Melvin Sidney, left guard Brian Creel and right guard Tim Medders.

The defensive line is quite the opposite, with six starting seniors. The rotation of defensive ends includes four: Reginald King and Sterrick Morgan (both three-year lettermen), James Lewis (40 tackles in 11 starts in 1997) and Wallace Rutledge (a two-year letterwinner). At noseguard, two-year starter Pernell Davis, (6-5, 305) is splitting time with fellow senior Curtis Jeter (5-11, 290).

The big boys up front will keep opposing

blockers from getting their claws into junior hitting machine Brian Smith, who set a UAB single-season record with 114 tackles last season. The only proven commodity in the secondary is junior corner Rodregis Brooks (44 tackles, 3 INTs).

### **GRIESE'S 3 KEYS**

- Replace three starters in the secondary (both safeties and one cornerback).
- Improve pass rush and pass protection.
- Survive brutal road trips to Nebraska, Louisiana Tech and Tennessee.

By Bill Doherty

## **ARKANSAS STATE Indians**

**Coach:** Joe Hollis, 2nd year, 2-9

**'97 Record:** 2-9

**Stadium/Location:** Indian Stadium (33,410)/Jonesboro, Ark.

**Key Players Lost:** Austin Tinsley, RB; Matt Turner, OL; Lavell Alexander, LB; Kelvin Tate, DE

**Returning Starters:** 20 (9 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Minnesota; Sept. 12 @ LSU; Sept. 19 SW MISSOURI STATE; Sept. 26 @ Hawaii; Oct. 3 NEW MEXICO STATE; Oct. 10 IDAHO; Oct. 17 @ SW Louisiana; Oct. 24 @ Mississippi; Oct. 31 @ Memphis; Nov. 7 LOUISIANA TECH; Nov. 14 NORTHEAST LOUISIANA; Nov. 21 CINCINNATI

**OVERVIEW:** Former Ohio State offensive coordinator Joe Hollis begins Year Two of a rebuilding job so large that it might even scare off Bob Vila. If the 1997 numbers are any indication, Hollis took over one of the worst Division I-A programs in America. The Indians' defense allowed nearly four-and-half football fields of total offense (448.4 ypg) and over seven touchdowns (35.8 ppg) per game. To compound matters, Hollis' club finished 102nd in rushing offense (94.0 ypg) and 97th in scoring offense (18.2 ppg).

Even so, Hollis is optimistic for 1998. His large recruiting class includes a dozen JUCO imports, including nine players who enrolled at Arkansas State last January and were able to take part in spring practice. His team is moving back to the Big West in 1999, which should be a much more competitive situation. And he is beginning to piece together his offense.

The trigger man for the next three seasons will be 6-2, 210-pound sophomore Cleo Lemon, who threw for a freshman record 1,452 yards last season—including a school-record 376 yards against Southwest Missouri State. Eight other starters return on offense for Arkansas State, including speedy receiver Lennie Johnson (5-8, 175), who is the school's all-time leader with 1,829 receiving yards.

Hollis also imported some immediate help for Lemon in tight end Bo Boatright (6-4, 240) from Coffeyville (Kan.) JC and speedy wide receiver Robert Kilow from Itawamba (Miss.) JC. Boatright will join returnee Ron Teat to give the Indians a dynamic duo at TE.

To improve the Indians' ground game, Hollis recruited six offensive linemen, includ-

ing Solomon Thomas from Kilgore (Texas) JC. Thomas will join NFL-sized senior tackle Todd Frohbieter (6-6, 325), who hasn't allowed a sack in three seasons, and junior Justin Rhodes to form the guts of the rebuilt line. Running behind them will be pint-sized sprinter Lamont Zachery (5-8, 175), and William Wooten from Tyler (Texas) JC.

Hollis also signed a future star in freshman tailback Jonathan Adams, the school's first-ever *Parade* All-American. Unfortunately, fans will likely have to wait until 1999 to see Adams because of academic woes.

Hollis needs the ground game to step up, if for no other reason than it keeps his leaky defense off the field. Of course, Hollis did some retooling there as well, bringing in two JUCO defensive linemen (Duane Alvin and Steve Brittingham) and three JUCO linebackers (Michael Bailey, Andy Henault and Scott Miller) to help solidify his defensive front. The new faces will join a pair of senior returnees, defensive end Clarence Williams (54 tackles, 5 sacks) and linebacker Koetter Little (80 tackles, two sacks).

Three starting defensive backs, led by the brother tandem of Chappell and Sean Mitchell, return for ASU. The Mitchell brothers will be joined by returnees Rodney Allen and Cornelius Cleary as well as JUCO signees Reginald Cooley and LaRaven Moody (teammates last year at Jones Junior College in Mississippi) in the secondary mix. Cooley was a JUCO All-America strong safety and should start alongside Sean Mitchell.

### **GRIESE'S 3 KEYS**

- JUCOs must make immediate impact, particularly on defense.
- Ground game, which was a woeful 102nd in the nation (out of 112 I-A schools), must add some bite.
- Offensive line must protect sophomore QB Cleo Lemon, the future of ASU football.

By Bill Doherty

## **CENTRAL FLORIDA Golden Knights**

**Coach:** Mike Kruczek, 1st year

**'97 Record:** 5-6 overall

**Home Stadium:** Florida Citrus Bowl (70,188)/Orlando, Fla.

**Key Players Lost:** Jermaine Benoit, DE; Emory Green, LB; Donnell Washington, FS; Kenton Richardson, SS; Darryl Latimore, CB; Kendrick Moore, FB; Jamiel McWhorter, DE

**Returning Starters:** 16 (10 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 at Louisiana Tech; Sept. 12 EASTERN ILLINOIS; Sept. 19 @ Purdue; Sept. 26 @ Bowling Green; Oct. 3 @ Toledo; Oct. 10 NORTH-EASTERN ILLINOIS; Oct. 24 @ SW Louisiana; Oct. 31 YOUNGSTOWN STATE; Nov. 7 @ Auburn; Nov. 14 BALL STATE; Nov. 21 NEW MEXICO

**OVERVIEW:** Former NFL quarterback Mike Kruczek faced quite a dilemma last January: Should he stay at Central Florida and take over as "interim" head coach for Gene McDowell (who resigned over his alleged in-



volvement in a cell-phone scam) or should he jump to the NFL as the quarterbacks coach on Jim Mora's staff with the Indianapolis Colts? In the end, Kruczek elected to stay at Central Florida rather than take the plum position of working with the first pick overall in the 1998 NFL Draft, Peyton Manning.

The reason? By staying at UCF, Kruczek gets to coach a quarterback who might eventually be better than Manning: senior Daunte Culpepper, a darkhorse Heisman Trophy candidate in 1998. With nine other offensive starters back in the fold, Culpepper (3,086 yards, 25 TD passes in 1997) should continue to rewrite the school's record books.

Six-foot senior wideout Siahia Burley returns to lead a deep and talented pool of receivers. Burley caught 77 balls (sixth in the nation in 1997) for 1,106 yards (10th in I-A ball). He'll be joined in UCF's high-octane, three-wide receiver set by senior Mark Non-sant (48 catches, 703 yards, 3 TDs last fall) and Charles Lee (29, 460, 6 TDs).

Central Florida must develop a ground game if they are to survive another tough schedule (seven of their 11 opponents won at least eight games last season). In the backfield, returning starter Mike Grant (132 carries, 565 yards, 12 TDs) will face a stiff challenge from sophomore Dwight Collins (42 carries, 275 yards, 2 TDs) for the starting tailback spot. Grant and Collins' effectiveness will be contingent on whether the offensive line can improve significantly in 1998. It will be led by three seniors: Cornell Green, Marcus Jenkins and Ryan Gillis.

On defense, only five starters are back from a unit that surrendered 27.5 points per game. Job One for Kruczek will be replacing both defensive ends and three-fourths of the secondary. Kruczek will play JUCO imports Raheem Pontiflet and Darryn Smith as soon as they register for classes. Those two newcomers, along with converted tackle Fred Harley, will attempt to ease the graduation loss of Jermaine Benoit (105 tackles).

The lone returning starter in the secondary is senior cornerback Reginald Doster, who had 59 tackles, two INTs and 10 pass deflections in 1997. He'll be joined by senior free safety Deon Porter, sophomore strong safety Damien Demps and pint-sized sophomore cornerback Davin Bush (5-8, 160).

Scoring won't be a problem for Central Florida. But if Kruczek is to remove the "interim" from his job title, two things must happen: 1) The defense must improve and 2) the Golden Knights must finish above .500 after back-to-back 5-6 seasons.

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Keep star quarterback Daunte Culpepper healthy.
- Avoid the kind of defensive breakdowns that cost UCF at least two wins last year.
- Improve a ground game which ranked 80th out of 112 Division I-A teams last fall.

By Bill Doherty

### LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs

**Coach:** Gary Crowton, 3rd year, 15-7

**'97 Record:** 9-2

**Stadium/Location:** Joe Aillet Stadium (30,000)/Ruston, La.

**Key Players Lost:** John Noel, FS; Myron Smith, LB; Clay Hopkins, OL; Josh Bradley, TE; Gomeya Cooper, LB; Marty Kent, PK

**Returning Starters:** 14 (7 off., 7 def.)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 CENTRAL FLORIDA; Sept. 12 @ Texas A&M; Sept. 19 SW LOUISIANA.; Sept. 26 @ Wyoming; Oct. 3 BOISE STATE; Oct. 10 @ North-east La.; Oct. 17 ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM; Oct. 24 @ Auburn; Oct. 31 NICHOLLS STATE; Nov. 7 @ Arkansas State; Nov. 26 @ Tulane

**OVERVIEW:** Had he desired, Gary Crowton could have put his name in the hat last fall for "Mayor of Ruston" and probably won. For sure, there would have been plenty of votes out there for the energetic, enthusiastic young head coach of the Bulldogs. Regarded as one of the best offensive minds in the country, he has reached 15 victories in his career faster than any other coach in the school's history.

About the only thing that the self-described martial arts expert didn't do was get the Division I-A independent into a bowl game. But that was no fault of his as Tech did everything it could on the field to warrant a serious look from the postseason selection committees. "We didn't make it last year, but that doesn't mean we won't have the opportunity to do it in 1998," he said.

Heisman hopeful Tim Rattay may be the best quarterback in the country that nobody has heard much about. As a sophomore, in his very first season as a I-A starter, he lead the nation in total offense and became the single season Tech record-setter for most completions (293), attempts (477) and TD passes (34). Not bad considering this is the school that supplied Terry Bradshaw to the NFL.

It helps to have a receiver of Troy Edwards' caliber, too. The 4.4 speedster is back for a final season after passing up a chance to enter the NFL draft. He led I-A players in receiving yards per game last year and ended with a Tech-record 102 catches, 1,707 yards and 13 touchdowns.

The return of Rob Koontz and Joey Chustz will help offset several key losses up front. Leading rusher Bobby Ray Tell is back, as are underrated receivers/running backs Terrence Wilson, Cedric Williams, Tyler Lasseigne and Steve Hampton.

There are some major defensive gaps to be filled. Gone are the three leading tacklers from a year ago: John Noel at free safety and linebackers Myron Smith and Gomeya Cooper. The loss of the steady Noel could be lessened with the return of rover Charles Bowman and corners Dewey Simpson and Rodney Pernetter, all of whom started last year. At linebacker, Adrian Fredericks and Damon Harrington return, and the middle of the interior is beefy and tough with Otis Pitts, Jarrett Procell and Desmond Nunnery.

Marty Kent, one of the school's best-ever placekickers, is gone, but NE Louisiana transfer Andrew Taylor showed promise during the spring. Former quarterback David Newman has not only been moved to tight end, but is also expected to take over the punting chores.

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Replace a depleted offensive interior.
- Groom a capable backup for Tim Rattay.
- Find a replacement for PK Marty Kent.

By O.K. Davis

### NE LOUISIANA Indians

**Coach:** Ed Zaunbrecher, 5th year, 17-30

**'97 record:** 5-7

**Stadium/Location:** Malone Stadium (30,427)/Monroe, La.

**Key Players Lost:** Tommy Franklin, C; Bo Meeks, QB; Daniel Jeremiah, QB; Steve Foley, DE; Felix Richardson, NG; Michael Hervey, OT

**Returning Starters:** 20 (8 off., 10 def., 2 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 NICHOLLS STATE; Sept. 12 @ Florida; Sept. 19 STEPHEN F. AUSTIN; Sept. 26 @ Kansas State; Oct. 3 @ Western Michigan; Oct. 10 LOUISIANA TECH; Oct. 24 @ Arkansas; Oct. 31 ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM; Nov. 7 SW LOUISIANA; Nov. 14 @ Arkansas State; Nov. 21 PORTLAND ST.

**OVERVIEW:** Tough start, strong finish. That was the take on the 1997 season, as the Indians lost four of their first five games and then went on a torrid stretch run that featured three wins over their last four outings.

Now, "Coach Z" and his team would love to put both a good start and a good finish together in their fourth season as a Division I-A independent. There are indications that the usually all-business Ed Zaunbrecher could find plenty of reasons to be smiling even more this year. Check the numbers. There are 20 starters returning. "I like the make-up of this team and what we've got coming back," Zaunbrecher said. "The optimism is extremely high both with our staff and our players."

First and foremost on the club's priority list is finding replacements for the two quarterbacks who alternated as starters last year. Bo Meeks is now at Northwestern (La.) State and Daniel Jeremiah has opted to return to his native state of California. That probably leaves the job in the hands of redshirt freshman Andre Vige.

It helps to have wide receiver Marty Booker returning. One of the best ever at that position for the Indians, the speedy senior goes into his final season with 103 career receptions, 1,616 yards and 12 TDs. Also back are Derrick Bridges at the other wideout slot and Alan Ricard at fullback. James Landers and Shane Pittard lead the offensive line. "You don't have players of Landers' ability to come along very often," said Zaunbrecher.

The defense loses two of its best players ever: end Steve Foley and nose guard Felix Richardson. Still, the unit should be strong. Pat Dennis was named first-team Division I-A All-Independent. Senior linebacker Sirl



Wright had 97 tackles. Free safety Brian Taylor, also a senior, led the Indians in tackles last year with 113. "I'm excited about the depth we have at linebacker," said Zaunbrecher.

Placekicker Cory Babineaux and punter Brian Fuchs both return.

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Must find leadership and consistency at quarterback.
- Pick up where the club left off in '97.
- Replace Felix Richardson and Steve Foley on the defensive line.

By O.K. Davis

## SW LOUISIANA Ragin' Cajuns

**Coach:** Nelson Stokley, 13th year, 60-71-1

**'97 Record:** 1-10

**Stadium/Location:** Cajun Field (31,000)/Lafayette, La.

**Key Players Lost:** Franco Smith, WR; Anthony Clements, OT; Mike Ellis, DB; Garrett Johnson, DB; Shannon Jeffries, DE; Marty Cannon, OG

**Returning Starters:** 21 (10 off., 10 def., 1 sp. teams)

**Schedule:** Sept. 5 @ Arkansas; Sept. 19 @ Louisiana Tech; Sept. 26 @ Oklahoma State; Oct. 3 @ Alabama-Birmingham; Oct. 17 ARKANSAS STATE; Oct. 24 CENTRAL FLORIDA; Oct. 31 @ Tulane; Nov. 7 @ NE Louisiana

**OVERVIEW:** Going 1-10 and being outscored 553-166 has a tendency to humble

even the most confident of coaches and prompt them to reassess the direction in which they're heading. "We just want to start from scratch and take a look at everything," said veteran head coach Nelson Stokley. "Needless to say, last year was disappointing. I do think we'll be a better football team this year."

It will help, for sure, that there are 44 lettermen returning, including 21 who started in at least four games. Several players are back after missing all or part of the 1997 season with injuries. Stokley can look to his son as one of the major returnees on this team. In fact, no other player suiting up again for the Ragin' Cajuns may be more valuable than Brandon Stokley, a senior receiver who was on pace to become the NCAA's all-time career receiving leader before a knee injury knocked him out of the team's final seven games. But the 6-foot, 193-pounder is eager to reach the NCAA's top 25 career list for receiving yardage (he enters the season with 176 catches for 2,529 yards).

It should help, too, to have all three quarterbacks returning who saw starting duty in 1997. The likely No. 1 is sophomore Lance Domec, who led the club with 925 yards passing. "We should be much more settled this year," Stokley said.

Running backs Elvis Joseph, Darren Brister and Eric Lindsey should be key. Brister, who gained 545 yards as a freshman, returns after a year's absence due to a knee injury. The offen-

sive line welcomes back center Ben Archer and 311-pound tackle Chad Hakemack. "We know we have the potential to be a much better offensive team," Stokley said.

Defensively, where else can the Cajuns go but up? The team allowed 31 or more points in every game, and six opponents scored 50 or more. "We've made a lot of changes and, hopefully, they will mean better things for us," Stokley said. The changes have come in a complete overhauling of the defensive scheme, the moving of personnel and the naming of three new members to the coaching staff. Linebacker looms as the strength of the "D" with the return of tackles' leader, Chuck Woodall, and his 54-stops cohort, Dwayne Viator. Major changes are set up front, among them being the move of junior Matt Merry from linebacker to end.

The secondary has a completely new look with the departure of four starters. But two players who could play major roles are 11-game regular Willie Terrell at safety and junior corner Charles Woods, who had 46 tackles last year. Junior punter Chris Shaw returns after a solid 42.8 average in 1997 and might also add placekicking duties to his chores.

### GRIESE'S 3 KEYS

- Re-establish confidence in the entire team.
- Return D to its traditional toughness.
- Find a steady, consistent quarterback.

By O.K. Davis

## TWO-DEEP ROSTER

### OFFENSE

QB: M. Samuel (Sr., 6-3, 217)*	S. Kavanagh (Jr., 6-4, 205)
RB: R. Dayne (Jr., 5-10, 263)*	E. Faulkner (So., 5-11, 198)
FB: C. Martin (Sr., 6-2, 235)*	R. Christen (So., 5-11, 233)
WR: C. Chambers (So., 6-1, 195)	D. Brown (Jr., 6-3, 213)
WR: A. Merritt (Jr., 5-10, 190)	R. Golden (So., 5-11, 177)
TE: E. Grams (Sr., 6-4, 265)*	D. Retzlaff (So., 6-8, 283)
LT: C. McIntosh (Jr., 6-7, 317)*	M. Tauscher (Jr., 6-3, 319)
LG: B. Ferrario (So., 6-3, 309)*	J. Gribowski (So., 6-6, 322)
C: C. Rabach (So., 6-5, 297)*	R. Roell (Jr., 6-5, 267)
RG: D. Costa (So., 6-5, 302)*	J. Jukubowski (So., 6-6, 330)
RT: A. Gibson (Sr., 6-8, 390)*	P. Daley (Jr., 6-5, 310)

### DEFENSE

DE: T. Burke (Sr., 6-4, 249)*	D. Eicher (Jr., 6-3, 251)
DT: R. Kolodziej (So., 6-3, 289)*	G. Pratt (Fr., 6-5, 292)
NG: C. Janek (Jr., 6-3, 284)*	E. Mahlik (So., 6-3, 264)
DE: J. Favret (So., 6-4, 249)*	B. Williams (Sr., 6-4, 272)
LB: C. Ghidorzi (Jr., 6-3, 246)	E. Hartwell (So., 6-2, 228)
LB: D. Thompson (Jr., 6-0, 234)*	R. Knight (So., 6-2, 233)
LB: B. Adamov (Sr., 6-0, 223)*	D. McGrew (Fr., 6-4, 217)
CB: D. King (So., 5-10, 185)	M. Echols (Fr., 5-10, 163)
CB: J. Fletcher (Fr., 5-10, 168)	O. Bryant (Jr., 5-11, 189)
FS: J. Doering (So., 6-0, 197)*	B. Myers (Jr., 6-2, 187)
SS: L. Taylor (Sr., 6-0, 187)*	T. Rosga (Jr., 6-0, 209)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K: M. Davenport (Sr., 5-10, 171)*	V. Pisetsky (Jr., 5-10, 217)
P: K. Stemke (So., 6-2, 188)*	E. Skrypchak (Jr., 5-11, 197)

\*Denotes returning starters

### MILESTONE

• Dayne needs 2,024 yards to surpass Archie Griffin as the Big Ten's all-time leading rusher. He also needs just 144 yards to surpass Billy Marek as Wisconsin's all-time leading rusher.

### INTERNET ADDRESS

www.wisc.edu/ath/

## Wisconsin (continued from page 62)

"This is a position that must improve," Alvarez said. "Mike has done a lot of good things, but for the second year in a row, he tailed off throwing the ball at the end of the year."

Samuel's job became more difficult when leading junior receiver Willie Austin was ruled academically ineligible for the spring semester. Chris Chambers and Rasheed Golden, a couple of speedsters who lettered as true freshmen, will compete for playing time with juniors Ahmad Merritt and Demetrius Brown.

Shifty sophomore Eddie Faulkner will provide depth as the No. 2 tailback. Faulkner rushed for 353 yards last season and recorded two 100-yard performances. "Tailback is the strongest position on our team," Alvarez said.

### DEFENSE

Eight starters return from a unit that played well at times last season. The strength will be the line, where four starters are back including team MVP Tom Burke. He had 19 tackles for losses as a defensive end last season. Burke and sophomore John Favret give Wisconsin two of the best defensive ends in the Big Ten. Favret had eight sacks as a freshman last season.

Linebacker Donnel Thompson led the Badgers with 141 tackles as a sophomore in 1997. He will be joined by veteran linebackers Chris Ghidorzi and Bob Adamov. Sopho-

more Roger Knight will provide depth. "I think we'll be solid at linebacker," Alvarez said. "We've watched the productivity of Thompson, a real intelligent player. Ghidorzi is big, athletic and loves the game."

One of the biggest concerns is replacing Jason Suttle and Lamar Campbell at cornerback. Sophomore Donte King, who started four games last season, and redshirt freshman Jamar Fletcher are listed as their replacements. Senior safety Leonard Taylor will anchor the secondary after starting the last two seasons.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

Placekicker Matt Davenport was a first-team All-Big Ten selection last season. He won two games on last-second field goals. Punter Kevin Stemke made second-team all-conference after setting a Wisconsin season record with a 43.9 average.

### RECRUITING

Alvarez continued his dominance in Wisconsin. Of the 24 newcomers, 12 are from Wisconsin, which is the sign of a solid program. Alvarez also signed defensive tackle Wendell Bryant from St. Louis, who was ranked among the top high school players in the Midwest.

By Pat Hartly



### PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Youngstown State
2. McNeese State
3. Delaware
4. Montana
5. Northern Iowa
6. Georgia Southern
7. Villanova
8. Western Kentucky
9. Eastern Kentucky
10. Hampton
11. East Tennessee St.
12. Southern University
13. Western Illinois
14. William & Mary
15. Hofstra
16. Northwestern St.
17. Florida A&M
18. Jackson St.
19. Portland St.
20. Richmond
21. Northern Arizona
22. Middle Tennessee St.
23. Murray State
24. Eastern Illinois
25. Howard

### PLAYERS TO WATCH

#### Offensive

##### Player of the Year

Aaron Stecker,  
Western Illinois

#### Defensive

##### Player of the Year

Terry Houzah,  
Mississippi Valley St.

### 3 BIGGEST GAMES

#### ► Sept. 12

Delaware @ Villanova

#### ► Oct. 31

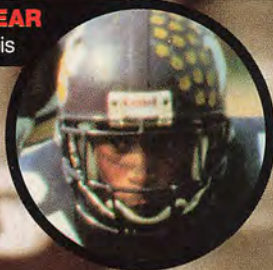
East Tennessee St. @  
Georgia Southern

#### ► Nov. 7

Northern Iowa @  
Youngstown St.

### PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Aaron Stecker, W. Illinois



# I-AA

## All-I-AA Team

### [OFFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
QB: G. Carmazzi	6-3/210	Jr.	Hofstra
RB: Aaron Stecker	5-10/195	Sr.	Western Illinois
RB: Jerry Azumah	5-10/188	Sr.	New Hampshire
WR: Mike Furrey	5-10/177	Sr.	Northern Iowa
WR: Sean Morey	5-11/180	Sr.	Brown
TE: Randy Powell	6-4/220	Sr.	Miss. Valley St.
OL: Mark Foster	6-2/289	Sr.	Furman
OL: Patrick Goodman	6-3/273	Sr.	W. Kentucky
OL: Reggie Nelson	6-4/313	Sr.	McNeese St.
OL: Cleve Roberts	6-6/305	Sr.	Troy St.
OL: Shawn Clark	6-5/288	Sr.	Appalachian St.
PK: Juan Toro	5-8/175	Sr.	Florida A&M

### [DEFENSE]

POS: PLAYER	HT/WT	YR	COLLEGE
DL: Marc Megna	6-2/250	Sr.	Richmond
DL: Marques Douglas	6-2/260	Sr.	Howard
DL: Branon Vaughn	6-1/220	Jr.	Tennessee Tech
DL: Robert Daniels	6-6/254	Sr.	Northwestern St.
LB: Terry Houzah	6-3/225	Sr.	Miss. Valley St.
LB: Charles Ayro	6-1/231	Sr.	McNeese St.
LB: Matt Pederson	6-3/220	Jr.	Northern Iowa
DB: Tony Booth	6-1/205	Sr.	James Madison
DB: Scott Shields	6-5/220	Sr.	Weber St.
DB: Eric Johnson	6-1/206	Jr.	Western Carolina
DB: Tyree Talton	6-1/298	Sr.	Northern Iowa
P: Chad Stanley	6-3/205	Sr.	Stephen F. Austin

► Running back  
Aaron Stecker is our  
pick for I-AA player  
of the year. The I-AA  
preseason  
predictions were  
prepared by  
Daryl Fein and  
The Sports Network.



## Must-See

### Offensive Players

1. Chris Boden, QB, Villanova
2. Carl Bond, WR, Connecticut
3. Jeremy Azumah, RB, New Hampshire

### Defensive Players

1. Tony Booth, DB, James Madison
2. Jason Tenner, DL, Villanova
3. Marc Megna, DL, Rhode Island

### Games To Watch

- Sept. 5, Villanova @ Pittsburgh  
Sept. 12, Delaware @ Villanova  
Sept. 19, Maine @ Connecticut

### Internet Address

www.atlantic10.org

By Donald Hunt

Last year, the only thing that eluded Villanova was a national championship. The Cats were upset 37-34 by Youngstown State in the first round of the Division I-AA playoffs. The Wildcats won the Atlantic 10 championship and finished the season ranked No. 1 in Division I-AA. They also had the Coach of the Year in Andy Talley and Offensive Player of the Year in Brian Finnerman. This year, Villanova is without Finnerman, who scored an amazing 17 touchdowns. The Wildcats' strength is on defense with linemen Jason Tenner (13 sacks), Chris Machovina (9 sacks) and cornerback Shannon Riley (74 total tackles). Once again, Delaware has a solid team led by quarterback Brian Ginn (14 TD passes, 3 INTs) and running back Andre Thompson (696 yards, 5 TDs). But the team that could surprise is Connecticut. The Huskies have three of the league's best players: quarterback Shane Stafford (23 TDs, 10 INTs), A-10 Rookie of the Year Recolon Jumps (815 rushing yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Carl Bond (51 receptions, 1,178 yards, 6 TDs). The A-10 should send two or three teams to the playoffs.

## Predicted Order of Finish

### 1 Delaware Blue Hens

'97 record: 12-2 (7-1)  
RS: 12 (7 off., 5 def.)  
Coach Tubby Raymond's defense is led by lineman Mike Cecere (3 sacks).

### 2 Villanova Wildcats

'97 record: 12-1 (8-0 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 15 (5 off., 10 def.)  
Wildcats quarterback Chris Boden passed for 3,079 yards.

### 3 William & Mary Tribe

'97 record: 7-4 (4-4)  
RS: 10 (6 off., 4 def.)

Coach Jimmie Laycock loses seven key starters. He will try to develop his young players this year after a somewhat disappointing season in '98.

### 4 Richmond Spiders

'97 record: 6-5 (4-4)  
RS: 14 (8 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Richmond defensive back Winston October had 85 total tackles last year to lead the Spiders.

### 5 Connecticut Huskies

'97 record: 7-4 (4-4)  
RS: 14 (7 off., 6 def., 1 sp. team)  
The Huskies have one of the finest

offenses in the A-10.

### 6 Maine Black Bears

'97 record: 5-6 (4-4)  
RS: 9 (7 off., 2 sp. team)  
The Black Bears have quarterback Mickey Fien, who led the conference in total offense.

### 7 Rhode Island Rams

'97 record: 2-9 (2-6)  
RS: 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)  
James Jenkins, the Rams quick-footed running back, picked up 1,032 yards last season.

### 8 New Hampshire Wildcats

'97 record: 5-6 (5-3)  
RS: 18 (8 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)

The Wildcats have one of the most exciting players in the league, Jerry Azumah, who led the A-10 in rushing (1,576 yards).

### 9 Northeastern Huskies

'97 record: 8-3 (5-3)  
RS: 13 (5 off., 8 def.)  
Steve Kives, the Huskies all-conference linebacker, triggers a veteran defense.

### 10 James Madison Dukes

'97 record: 5-6 (3-5)  
RS: 15 (8 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Dukes have the finest DB in the conference in Tony Booth, who snared eight interceptions

# Big Sky

## Must-See

### Offensive Players

1. Brian Ah Yat, QB, Montana
2. Charles Dunn, RB, Portland State
3. Gibbons St. Paul, WR, Northern Arizona

### Defensive Players

1. Scott Shields, FS/K/P, Weber State
2. Jake Crissup, LB, Northern Arizona
3. Kelley Bryant, DT, Montana

### Games

- Oct. 3, Portland St. @ Montana  
Oct. 17, Portland St. @ Montana St.  
Nov. 21, Montana St. @ Montana

### Internet Address

www.bigskyconf.com

By Jonathan Tesser

Montana has won three of the last five Big Sky championships, and after slipping all the way to second last season, Mick Dennehy's Grizzlies will likely make it back to the top in 1998. Montana has some holes to fill on defense, but explosive senior quarterback Brian Ah Yat is back, and Dennehy likes what he sees overall. "We have a chance to be pretty good on defense," Dennehy said. "The base is there with our defensive front and at cornerback." Portland State is Montana's main challenger. Coach Tim Walsh returns 17 starters, but needs to get improved play from most of them, especially on defense. Eastern Washington dominated the Big Sky in '97, and lost to eventual national champion Youngstown State in the I-AA semifinals. However, they look to be a young and rebuilding team in '98. A swing of three points in four of Montana State's five losses in '97 would have put the Bobcats at 10-1, and coach Cliff Hysell returns the core of that team. This year, the annual season finale showdown between Montana and Montana State could have the Big Sky title hanging in the balance.

## Predicted Order of Finish

### 1 Montana Grizzlies

'97 Record: 8-4 (6-2 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 16 (9 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Ah Yat is healed from the sprained knee that hampered him last year.

### 2 Portland State Vikings

'97 Record: 4-7 (3-5)  
RS: 18 (9 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Charles Dunn, the Big Sky Newcomer of the Year who ran for 1,176 yards, and QB Jimmy Blanchard lead the offense.

### 3 Northern Arizona Lumberjacks

'97 Record: 6-5 (4-4)  
RS: 10 (4 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The combination of QB Travis Brown to WR Gibbons St. Paul returns, but the offensive line is rebuilding and last year's top two runners are gone.

### 4 E. Washington Eagles

'97 Record: 13-2 (7-1)  
RS: 9 (4 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Mike McKenzie is back (755 yards), but Big Sky Coach of the Year Mike Kramer loses seven starters apace from his offense and defense.

### 5 Montana St. Bobcats

'97 Record: 6-5 (5-3)

RS: 12 (5 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Senior Rob Compson returns after completing 60 percent of his passes last season.

### 6 Weber State Wildcats

'97 Record: 6-5 (4-4)  
RS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Jerry Graybeal, the former defensive coordinator at Eastern Washington, takes over the head spot at Weber State. He inherits senior Scott Shields, the Big Sky's leading scorer.

### 7 CS-Northridge Matadors

'97 Record: 6-6 (4-4)

RS: 15 (6 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The Matadors gave up 392.5 ypg, and now they don't have QB Aaron Flowers (348.0 ypg) to make it up on the other side.

### 8 Idaho State Bengals

'97 Record: 3-8 (2-6)  
RS: 18 (11 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Bengals return their starting backfield plus their offensive line. Defense will still be a problem.

### 9 CS-Sacramento Hornets

'97 Record: 1-10 (1-7)  
RS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
LB Ryland Wyckman, a second-team all-league pick who had 154 tackles last year, is back to lead the D.



By Doug Newhoff

The Gateway has always claimed it was one of the toughest I-AA conferences in the country. Now it has rock-solid proof. The Gateway won its first national title since forming in 1985. First-year member Youngstown State finished third in the league, earned an at-large berth to the playoffs and won the I-AA national title, its fourth of the '90s. Western Illinois almost beat McNeese in the quarterfinals, which would have put them up against Youngstown State in the finals. Northern Iowa finished second, beating YSU during the season but losing to Western Illinois in overtime. Northern Iowa missed the postseason for the first time in eight years with a 7-4 record under first-year head coach Mike Dunbar. Western Illinois tailback Aaron Stecker is back for his final collegiate campaign after compiling 2,293 yards rushing last season. Another tight battle for the crown next season will see Youngstown, Western and Northern Iowa leading the charge. Whoever emerges has to be considered a serious candidate to make another run at the national championship.

## Predicted Order of Finish

**1 Youngstown St. Penguins**  
'97 record: 13-2 (4-2 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 14 (5 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The Penguins' physical brand of football begins with a veteran defensive unit. The running back trio of Jake Andreadis, Andrian Brown and Matt Richardson may be the Gateway's best.

**2 Northern Iowa Panthers**  
'97 record: 7-4 (5-1)  
RS: 17 (6 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)  
UNI will have a new quarterback for the sixth straight season, pos-

sibly Division I-A transfer Todd Goebbel. The defense returns standouts Ty Tafton (CB), Erik Nelson (DE) and Matt Pedersen (LB).

**3 W. Illinois Leathernecks**  
'97 record: 11-2 (6-0)  
RS: 10 (3 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Returning Gateway Player of the Year Aaron Stecker, runner-up in the national Walter Payton Award balloting, will have to shoulder a big load offensively behind a rebuilt front five and a new quarterback.

**4 SW Missouri St. Bears**  
'97 record: 5-6 (3-3)  
RS: 12 (4 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

Southwest Missouri St. will be young up front, and senior Derek Jensen, who has started six games for the Bears, is the heir apparent at quarterback. Junior Travis Brawner kicked a national best 21-for-28 field goals.

**5 Illinois St. Redbirds**  
'97 record: 2-9 (0-6)  
RS: 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The pass-happy Redbirds have been a defensive nightmare for opponents and themselves. Freshman Kevin Glenn completed a league-high 191 passes in 361 attempts. Four straight road games in October will be a test.

## Must-See

## Offensive Players

1. Aaron Stecker, RB, Western Illinois
2. Mike Furrey, WR, Northern Iowa
3. Jake Andreadis, RB, Youngstown St.

## Defensive Players

1. Ty Talton, CB, Northern Iowa
2. Shannon Jackson, DT, Indiana State
3. Erik Nelson, DE, Northern Iowa

## Games

- Oct. 3, Youngstown St. @ W. Illinois  
Nov. 7, N. Iowa @ Youngstown St.  
Nov. 14, W. Illinois @ Northern Iowa

## Internet Address

www.mvc.org/gateway.htm

## 6 Indiana St. Sycamores

'97 record: 3-8 (2-4)  
RS: 14 (5 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Coach Tim McGuire, who takes over for Dennis Rattz, has been one of the top defensive coaches in 1-AA, and he has a veteran unit returning led by all-league tackle Shannon Jackson.

## 7 Southern Illinois Salukis

'97 record: 3-8 (1-5)  
RS: 13 (8 off., 3 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The Salukis have a returning starter at quarterback for the first time in three years, but depth is a concern across the board.

By Bill Doherty

Brown's first-year head coach Phil Estes has all the ingredients necessary to field one of the most potent passing attacks in I-AA football. The Bears welcome back 10 of 11 starters from their record-setting 1997 season, an Ivy League-best ever 474.3 yards of total offense per game. Key returns include senior All-American wide receiver Sean Morey and junior standout quarterback James Perry. Morey, the 1997 Ivy League Player of the Year, led the nation with 1,434 receiving yards, while Perry was the first sophomore quarterback in Ivy League history to earn first team all-league honors. The Bears appear to be the class of the Ancient Eight but figure to receive a stiff challenge from Harvard, which returns 16 starters from last year's unbeaten Ivy League champion team. QB Rich Linden (2,308 yards, 16 TDs) and RB Chris Menick (school-record 1,267 yards, 13 TDs) lead a balanced Harvard offensive attack. First-team All-Ivy linebacker Isaiah Kacyvenski (80 tackles) is back from a defense that needs to completely rebuild its front four.

## Must-See

## Offensive Players

- 1) Sean Morey, WR, Brown
- 2) Chris Menick, RB, Harvard
- 3) James Perry, QB, Brown

## Defensive Players

- 1) Isaiah Kacyvenski, LB, Harvard
- 2) Darren MacDonald, LB, Pennsylvania
- 3) John Hanson, LB, Cornell

## Games

- Oct. 24, Pennsylvania @ Brown  
Nov. 7, Brown @ Harvard  
Nov. 14, Harvard @ Pennsylvania

## Internet Address

www.ivyleague.princeton.edu

## Predicted Order of Finish

**1 Brown Bears**  
'97 Record: 6-4 (3-4 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 16 (10 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Brown features the league's most high-octane offense, led by the all-Ivy pass-catch combo of James Perry and Sean Morey.

**2 Harvard Crimson**  
'97 Record: 9-1 (7-0)  
RS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Three All-Ivy defensive linemen must be replaced for coach Tim Murphy's club to defend its Ivy League crown.

**3 Pennsylvania Quakers**  
'97 Record: 6-4 (5-2)  
RS: 9 (4 off., 5 def.)  
Mitch Marrow is now chasing NFL quarterbacks, but RB James Finn (797 yards, 11 TDs), QB Matt Rader (12 TD passes) and LB Darren McDonald (91 tackles) are back for the Quakers.

**4 Cornell Big Red**  
'97 Record: 5-5 (3-4)  
RS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Peter Mangurian, an NFL assistant under Dan Reeves since 1993, is the new head coach at Cornell. One of his assistants will be Bill Arnsperger, a former head coach

for the N.Y. Giants

**5 Princeton Tigers**  
'97 Record: 5-5 (2-5)  
RS: 16 (9 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The Tigers, led by ultra-accurate kicker Alex Sierk (18 of 21 FGs in 1997), move into state-of-the-art Princeton Stadium this fall.

**6 Dartmouth Big Green**  
'97 Record: 8-2 (6-1)  
RS: 9 (5 off., 3 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Eight defensive starters must be replaced—including all-everything LB Zack Walz, who was a sixth-round pick of the Arizona Cardinals.

**7 Columbia Lions**  
'97 Record: 3-7 (2-5)  
RS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
There are a lot of questions at quarterback, but the Lions defense, led by seniors Chris Tillotson (7 interceptions) and Jeremy Taylor (96 tackles), should be much better in 1998.

**8 Yale Bulldogs**  
'97 Record: 1-9 (0-7)  
RS: 14 (7 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Still the Ivy cellar dwellers, but the return of RB Jabbar Cragwell from a wrist injury could help the 'Dogs notch a league win in 1998.



## Must-See

### Offensive Players

1. Jim Lopusznick, QB, Fairfield
2. Andre Hatcher, RB, Duquesne
3. Eric Wise, WR, Fairfield

### Defensive Players

1. Reid Ellis, DL, Marist
2. Matt Fisher, LB, Duquesne
3. Mike Halen, LB, Georgetown

### Games

Sept. 26, Duquesne @ St. John's  
Oct. 3, Fairfield @ Duquesne  
Nov. 6, Fairfield @ St. John's

### Internet Address

www.maac.org

By Jonathan Tesser

This year the MAAC expands to nine teams (although St. John's played a full league schedule in '97, the Red Storm's games didn't count in the standings), and Duquesne is the team to beat. The Dukes lost just one league game last year and return the bulk of their defense, which finished third in the MAAC. The key is at quarterback, where coach Greg Gattuso has to replace Dave Loya. The team with the best shot to overtake Duquesne is, remarkably, Fairfield. Entering their third season of I-AA football, the young Stags improved from a 1-8 season two years ago to 7-3 last year. The Red Storm would likely be favorites this year were it not for the loss of running back Jermaine Creighton (1,114 yards). Georgetown finished undefeated in the MAAC, but this will be a rebuilding year for the Hoyas. Marist will have to fill some holes as well, but does return three linemen from the MAAC's top-ranked defense. Canisius is looking to move up a few spots, while Siena will probably fall after losing 15 starters. St. Peter's only victory in '97 came against Iona, which didn't win a game.

## Predicted Order of Finish

- 1 Duquesne Dukes**  
'97 Record: 7-3 (6-1 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 18 (7 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)  
RB Andre Hatcher (699 yards) and Earl Johnson (27 receptions) lead the offense; 1st-team All-MAAC performers Matt Fisher (100 tackles) and Todd Amick (5.5 sacks) are back on defense.
- 2 Fairfield Stags**  
'97 Record: 7-3 (4-3)  
RS: 23 (11 off., 10 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Junior QB Jim Lopusznick (1,971 yards, 19 TDs) triggers the MAAC's top-ranked offense.

- 3 St. John's Red Storm**  
'97 Record: 8-3  
RS: 21 (9 off., 10 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Senior QB Mark Levine (1,577 yards, 11 TDs) has his top six receivers back; LBs Rob Feise and Anthony Zito lead the defense.
- 4 Georgetown Hoyas**  
'97 Record: 8-3 (7-0)  
RS: 11 (4 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Although QB Bill Ward has graduated, Bill Mont (773 yards, 5 TDs in '96) is ready to step in.
- 5 Marist Red Foxes**  
'97 Record: 6-4 (4-3)  
RS: 12 (3 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
First-team All-MAAC lineman Reid

- Ellis (12.5 sacks) and Dwayne Bates (8 sacks) return to a defense that only allowed an eye-popping 39.8 yards rushing per game.
- 6 Canisius Golden Griffins**  
'97 Record: 3-7 (2-5)  
RS: 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Senior tailback Nick Adinolfi (923 yards rushing) accounted for 49 percent of the Griffins' total offense in '97.
  - 7 Siena Saints**  
'97 Record: 6-3 (4-3)  
RS: 9 (4 off., 5 def.)  
In addition to losing Reggie Greene, I-AA's all-time leading

- rusher (5,415 yards), the Saints lose four of their top five tacklers on defense.
- 8 St. Peter's Peacocks**  
'97 Record: 1-9 (1-6)  
RS: 16 (8 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Peacocks bring back 2nd-team All-MAAC linebacker Colin Scheiffer, but must replace their quarterback and their top rusher.
  - 9 Iona Gaels**  
'97 Record: 0-9 (0-7)  
RS: 19 (10 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The Gaels have taken a first step by hiring Frank Mariani as, unbelievably, their first full-time head coach.

## Must-See

### Offensive Players

1. Charles Jackson, RB, Hampton
2. Steve Wallace, RB, South Carolina St.
3. Jacquay Nunnally, WR, Florida A&M

### Defensive Players

1. Marques Douglas, T, Howard
2. David Turner, LB, Hampton
3. Deon Hunt, LB, Hampton

### Games

Sept. 12, Hampton @ Howard  
Oct. 23, Hampton @ Florida A&M  
Oct. 24, Hampton @ S. Carolina St.

### Internet Address

None

By Donald Hunt

Joe Taylor, the MEAC Coach of the Year last season, has a great chance to see his Pirates repeat as league champions. Hampton has some terrific players returning from last year's team, which was undefeated in MEAC play and 10-2 overall. The Pirates key returning players are running back Charles Jackson, the MEAC's leading rusher with 1,138 yards, linebacker David Turner, defensive back Donald Turner and linebacker Deon Hunt. Florida A&M and South Carolina State are ready to challenge the Pirates for the MEAC title. FAMU head coach Billy Joe has exciting wide receiver Jacquay Nunnally back. Nunnally, who was the MEAC Rookie of the Year, caught 61 passes for 1,066 yards and 10 touchdowns. South Carolina State coach Willie Jeffries will lean on defensive back Jermaine Derricott, who led the conference with 64 solo tackles. A year ago, Hampton and FAMU participated in the Division I-AA playoffs, and South Carolina State lost to Southern in the Heritage Bowl for the national black college championship. The MEAC could once again send three teams into postseason play.

## Predicted Order of Finish

- 1 Hampton Pirates**  
'97 record: 10-2 (7-1 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 16 (6 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The Pirates' biggest loss is offensive guard Lamont Turner, but they still have the best running back in the league, Charles Jackson.
- 2 Florida A&M Rattlers**  
'97 record: 9-3 (5-3)  
RS: 15 (7 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Look for FAMU to get the ball into the hands of wide receiver Jacquay Nunnally.

- 3 S. Carolina St. Bulldogs**  
'97 record: 9-3 (5-3)  
RS: 13 (6 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
South Carolina State will have the best defense in the league, led by defensive back Jermaine Derricott.
- 4 Howard Bison**  
'97 record: 7-4 (4-3)  
RS: 13 (7 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
If Howard's offensive line can give quarterback Ted White some time to throw, they'll be in good shape.
- 5 Bethune-Cookman Wildcats**  
'97 record: 3-7 (1-6)

- RS: 12 (6 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Bethune-Cookman appears to be solid on both sides of the ball. Wide receiver James Adderley is their big play guy.
- 6 N.C. A&T Aggies**  
'97 record: 7-4 (3-4)  
RS: 13 (6 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Agiess coach Bill Hayes lost Chris McNeil, the league's best defensive player, and will have to find someone else to step up.
  - 7 Morgan St. Bears**  
'97 record: 3-6 (2-5)  
RS: 13 (5 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Morgan State head coach Stump Mitchell and his Bears played well

- against some of the MEAC's best teams. The Bears may be able to win a few of those this year.
- 8 Delaware St. Hornets**  
'97 record: 3-8 (1-6)  
RS: 12 (6 off., 5 def., 1 sp. team)  
The Hornets have one of the finest pass defenders in Mansfield Brooker.
  - 9 Norfolk St. Spartans**  
'97 record: 3-7  
RS: 12 (5 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Spartans big offensive weapon is wide receiver Tyrone Sellers, who caught seven TD passes a year ago.



By Jonathan Tesser

Robert Morris ran the table again in the Northeast Conference and is undefeated in the history of the league. It's important to note that the Northeast is preparing for just its third season of football and that current membership consists of just five teams. Still, coach Joe Walton's club has played some excellent football, and the Colonials once again look like the team to beat. Monmouth won eight games behind a balanced offense that finished on top of the NEC, but things could be different this year. Coach Kevin Callahan has to replace most of his skill position players, including quarterback Dan Sabella, the NEC Offensive Player of the Year. If Monmouth slips, Wagner, behind the powerful legs of senior tailback Rick Sarille, could be there to challenge Robert Morris. Central Connecticut State loses its big gun, tailback Stan House, as well as a multitude of defensive players. The good news for new St. Francis coach Kevin Doherty: he returns 22 of 24 starters. The bad news: the Red Flash are still looking for their first NEC victory.

## Must-See

## Offensive Players

1. Rick Sarille, RB, Wagner
2. L.T. Brown, TE, Central Conn. St.
3. Archie Wannamaker, RB, Robert Morris

## Defensive Players

1. John O'Connell, LB, Robert Morris
2. Pat McKenna, DB, St. Francis
3. Steve Konopka, DL, Central Conn. St.

## Games

- Oct. 3, Robert Morris @ Wagner  
Oct. 24, Monmouth @ Robert Morris  
Nov. 7, Monmouth @ Wagner

## Internet Address

www.northeastconference.org

## Predicted Order of Finish

## 1 Robert Morris Colonials

'97 Record: 8-3 (4-0 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 12 (7 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)  
On defense, two-time All-Northeast performer John O'Connell will switch to the middle from outside linebacker to fill the void left by another two-time selection, Nate List. The Colonials return tailback Archie Wannamaker (976 yards) but will have to come up with just their second starting quarterback ever, to replace Jake Newman.

## 2 Monmouth Hawks

'97 Record: 5-4 (3-1)  
RS: 13 (7 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)  
In addition to losing Sabella, the Hawks also lose NEC Defensive Player of the Year Jason Gmitter. Junior linebackers Bill Pullen and Mike Normand lead a solid group of returnees that must improve late in games—overall, the Hawks were outscored, 96-21, in the fourth quarter.

## 3 Wagner Seahawks

'97 Record: 6-4 (2-2)  
RS: 13 (6 off., 7 def.)  
Sarille "slumped" last year when

he ran for 1,285 yards, down from 1,479 the year before. A couple of All-NEC linemen, Brian Avery and Chad Moran, return to insure that Sarille will get his yards in '98. The secondary, led by Jason Scholz and Jamarr Johnson, will be the strength of the defense.

## 4 Central Connecticut St. Blue Devils

'97 Record: 5-5 (1-3)  
RS: 15 (10 off., 5 def.)  
Junior quarterback Keith Toolan (1,877 yards, 13 TDs) returns, as does tight end L.T. Brown (33 receptions) and wideout Mike Griz

(32 receptions, 20.7 yards per catch). Defensively, tackle Steve Konopka and linebacker David Parker are the main holdovers from a unit hit hard by graduation.

## 5 St. Francis Red Flash

'97 Record: 2-9 (0-4)  
RS: 22 (11 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Perhaps things are looking up. Sophomore quarterback Jeremy Swords was the Northeast Rookie of the Year. Linebacker Matt Farabaugh and the super safety duo of Pat McKenna and Samm Taranto lead the Red Flash defense.

By Daryl Fein

The OVC was top-heavy in 1997, with Eastern Kentucky, Eastern Illinois and Murray State the only clubs winning more than six games. With four teams (Eastern Kentucky, Eastern Illinois, Murray State and Middle Tennessee State) in the preseason Top-25 and the four remaining teams improved, the league promises to be more competitive. Expect the OVC to be a run-happy league, especially early on, due to the fact that Tennessee-Martin, Tennessee State and Murray State are the only teams to return starting quarterbacks. Tennessee State will feature one of I-AA's most explosive offenses, highlighted by the co-Offensive Player of the Year, wide receiver Tyrone Butterfield. Murray State can put their defense up against any in division 1-AA with eight returning starters from a unit that ranked second in I-AA in total defense (237.5 ypg). Eastern Kentucky will look to defend its title after going undefeated (7-0) in conference play last year. The Colonels will be hard pressed to duplicate that feat in this much improved conference.

## Must-See

## Offensive Players

- 1) Tyrone Butterfield, WR, Tenn. St.
- 2) Justin Lynch, RB, E. Illinois
- 3) Leon Murray, QB, Tennessee St.

## Defensive Players

- 1) Branon Vaughn, DE, Tenn. Tech
- 2) Fred Hambrick, CB, SE Missouri St.
- 3) Chris Watson, CB, Eastern Illinois

## Games

- Sept. 26, E. Kentucky @ M. Tenn. St.  
Nov. 14, Tennessee St. @ Murray St.  
Nov. 21, E. Illinois @ E. Kentucky

## Internet Address

www.ovc.org

## Predicted Order of Finish

## 1 Eastern Kentucky Colonels

'97 Record: 8-4 (7-0 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 14 (9 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Colonels will be looking for their 12th playoff birth over the last 13 years. They return their three leading rushers from last season.

## 2 Middle Tennessee St. Blue Raiders

'97 Record: 4-6 (2-5)  
RS: 19 (8 off., 10 def., 1 sp. teams)  
After finishing under .500 for just

the second time since 1980, Boots Donnelly's squad is loaded.

## 3 Murray State Racers

'97 Record: 7-4 (5-2)  
RS: 13 (3 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The Racers could be among the nation's top defensive squads. Oklahoma transfer Justin Fuente will battle incumbent Dan Loyd for the starting quarterback job.

## 4 Eastern Illinois Panthers

'97 Record: 8-3 (5-2)  
RS: 9 (4 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Tailbacks Justin Lynch and Jabarey McDavid return after

combining for nearly 1,700 rushing yards last season.

## 5 Tennessee State Tigers

'97 Record: 4-7 (4-3)  
RS: 15 (7 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Tigers return their top passer, rusher and receiver on offense and their two top tacklers on defense.

## 6 Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles

'97 Record: 6-5 (4-3)  
RS: 18 (9 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
After finishing the '97 season with their best record since 1993, the Golden Eagles return 42 lettermen.

## 7 Southeast Missouri State Indians

'97 Record: 4-7 (1-7)  
RS: 14 (9 off., 5 def.)  
DT Troy Baglio and CB Fred Hambrick lead a defensive unit that ranked second in the Ohio Valley last season.

## 8 Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks

'97 Record: 1-10 (0-7)  
RS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The well was dry for coach Jim Marshall's first year. He returns 16 starters, and Tennessee-Martin could be the most improved team in the Ohio Valley



## Must-See

## Offensive Players

1. Ryan Vena, QB, Colgate
2. Jason Corle, RB, Towson
3. Corey Hill, WR, Colgate

## Defensive Players

1. John Green, DT, Lafayette
2. Ian Eason, LB, Lehigh
3. Nate Musselman, CB, Bucknell

## Games

- Oct. 24, Lafayette @ Bucknell  
Oct. 31, Colgate @ Bucknell  
Nov. 21, Lehigh @ Lafayette

## Internet Address

www.lehigh.edu/~inpat

By Corky Blake

Bucknell brought a 10-0 record into its final game of the season at Colgate. A win would've wrapped up their second straight Patriot League championship. But instead they got punted, 48-14, and Colgate walked away with its first league title. Expect Colgate to do what Bucknell couldn't—repeat. Third-year coach Dick Biddle has brought the Red Raiders from last (0-11 in '95) to first, and they should stay there with the league's two-time player of the year, junior QB Ryan Vena, senior wide receiver Corey Hill and 1,000-yard tailback Ed Weiss. If Colgate falters, figure on Bucknell to gain the league's automatic playoff berth. Bucknell's strength will be in its veteran secondary and receiving corps. If senior quarterback Don McDowell can raise his game to a higher level, the Bison will be truly dangerous. This fall, Lehigh's pass-oriented offense will rely heavily on junior Phil Stambaugh's strong arm. Fordham surprised everyone by finishing third, but Rams coach Nick Quartaro left for Iowa State. In at Fordham is Ken O'Keefe, who directed Allegheny College to a Division III national title.

## Predicted Order of Finish

## 1 Colgate Red Raiders

'97 Record: 7-5 (6-0 conf.)

Returning Starters: 17 (9 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

Last season Vena set a record for consecutive games with a touchdown pass (17), and completed 129 of 222 passes for 1,882 yards. And although fullback Daymon Smith, Patriot Offensive Player of the Year and Colgate's fourth all-time leading rusher, graduated, junior Ed Weiss (1,069 yards) should pick up the slack.

## 2 Bucknell Bison

'97 Record: 10-1 (5-1)

RS: 14 (6 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

The Bison led the league in total defense, and should continue to do so with the addition of Boston U. transfer Shaun Redd to the secondary.

## 3 Lehigh Mountain Hawks

'97 Record: 4-7 (2-4)

RS: 16 (7 off., 9 def.)

Quarterback Phil Stambaugh will lead the offense with a little help from running back Rabih Abdullah, who was one of five 1,000-yard rushers in the league (1,225) in '97.

## 4 Lafayette Leopards

'97 Record: 3-8 (2-4)

RS: 17 (9 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)

On offense, the running game needs to take pressure off of quarterback Mike Palos. Eight other starters return. The defense will need to fill the void left by Defensive Player of the Year Dan Bengale, an outside linebacker who ended his career with 408 tackles and 17.5 sacks.

## 5 Holy Cross Crusaders

'97 Record: 4-7 (2-4)

RS: 15 (6 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Holy Cross has two all-league first-teams returning in senior tight end Bobby Andrews and placekicker Dana Fiatarone. Depth at running

back may steer the Crusaders away from the run-and-shoot.

## 6 Fordham Rams

'97 Record: 5-6 (4-2)

RS: 14 (5 off., 8 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Five seniors return to start on defense, including first-team cornerback Shane McAndrew.

## 7 Towson Tigers

'97 Record: 2-8 (0-6)

RS: 10 (6 off., 4 def.)  
The league's newest member is also its youngest, with the fewest number of games played (277). Southpaw QB Kevin Smith and RB Jason Corle will try to carry the undersized Tigers.

## Pioneer

## 1-AA

## Must-See

## Offensive Players

1. Naim Sanders, RB, Butler
2. Dylan Ching, WR, San Diego
3. Mike Stadler, QB, San Diego

## Defensive Players

1. Mark Thobe, DB, Dayton
2. Mike Glassmeyer, DL, Dayton
3. Kevin Ward, LB, Butler

## Games

- Oct. 3, Valparaiso @ Drake  
Oct. 10, Drake @ Dayton  
Nov. 14, Dayton @ San Diego

## Internet Address

None

By Daryl Fein

The Pioneer Football League goes into the 1998 season with just five teams after Evansville announced it was dropping the sport. The Dayton Flyers dominated the league over the past two seasons, having not lost a league game since 1995. They finished the '97 season ranked 23rd in *The Sports Network's* 1-AA Poll. With just four returning starters on offense and five on defense, coach Mike Kelly will need his youthful club to step up in a hurry, as they will face a stiff challenge from San Diego and Drake. The Toreros return 16 starters from last year's 8-3 team. The Drake Bulldogs return 15 starters, including eight on the defensive side of the ball. Valparaiso hopes to crack the "big three" with its experienced squad, as the Crusaders return 16 starters. Butler can expect to struggle after losing 12 starters from last season's 6-4 team. However, the Bulldogs won't be without excitement. Pint-sized tailback Naim Sanders is the PFL's most potent offensive player. Look for this conference to be one of the most closely contested in all of division I-AA.

## Predicted Order of Finish

## 1 Dayton Flyers

'97 Record 9-1 (5-0 conf.)

Returning Starters: 9 (4 off., 5 def.)  
The Flyers lose a number of starters, putting their two-year winning streak in jeopardy.

Undefeated or not, the Flyers will once again be in the hunt for the PFL title. Dayton just knows how to win. Mike Thobe and Mike Glassmeyer form the nucleus of the league's best defensive line.

## 2 San Diego Toreros

'97 Record 8-3 (4-1)

RS: 16 (8 off., 8 def.)

San Diego may literally battle Dayton to the very end, as they host the Flyers in the season finale. Quarterback Mike Stadler returns for his junior season, after throwing for 2,287 yards and a school record 30 touchdowns. Wide receivers Dylan Ching and Jeff Prichard return as well. The Toreros averaged 33.6 points per game in '97.

## 3 Drake Bulldogs

'97 Record 8-3 (2-3)

RS: 15 (7 off., 8 def.)

The Bulldogs are balanced on both sides of the ball. Running

back Jason Grove is the league's leading returning rusher, after gaining 1,374 yards on 283 carries and 16 touchdowns. Junior quarterback Solon Bell (1,264 passing yards) also returns. Linebackers Luke Gansen and Jake Wilson return to help form one of the PFL's top defensive units.

## 4 Valparaiso Crusaders

'97 Record 3-7 (2-3)

RS: 16 (9 off., 7 def.)

Defensively, the Crusaders will hold their own with any team in the league. Linemen Ray Cirks and Jon Wrench anchor the top

defensive line in the conference. The Crusaders have the upper hand in close contests, as they sport the league's best special teams unit.

## 5 Butler Bulldogs

'97 Record 6-4 (2-3)

RS: 10 (8 off., 2 def.)

The Bulldogs were hit harder by graduation than any other team in the league, but they are likely to spring an upset or two if taken lightly. Running back Naim Sanders (5-7, 200) is the most exciting player in the league, rushing for 1,122 yards last season.



By Jonathan Tesser

Georgia Southern finished on top of the Southern Conference in coach Paul Johnson's first year on the job. The Eagles led the league in scoring defense and offense and finished second in total offense and fourth in total defense. With the bulk of his team returning, Johnson's crew is the one to beat again. It's also pretty safe to assume that VMI, which didn't win a game last year, will finish at the bottom. Everything in between, however, is up for grabs. Appalachian State, the only Southern Conference team to defeat Georgia Southern last year, returns nine on offense but needs to replace All-Southern quarterback Bake Baker as well as fill some holes on defense. Furman, last year's preseason favorite, must remake its defense as only three starters return. East Tennessee State, which finished tied for third with the Paladins, has to overcome the loss of both the conference's Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year. Western Carolina, UT-Chattanooga, Wofford and The Citadel will all have to make serious strides if they want to crack the top group.

## Must-See

## Offensive Players

1. Brandon Walker, TB, E. Tenn. St.
2. Steve Hawkins, WR, UT-Chatt.
3. Greg Hill, QB, Georgia Southern

## Defensive Players

1. Eric Johnson, DB, W. Carolina
2. Orlando Ruff, LB, Furman
3. V. Allen, DL, Georgia Southern

## Games to Watch

- Sept. 12, App. St. @ E. Tenn. St.  
Oct. 17, App. St. @ Ga. Southern  
Oct. 31, E. Tenn. St. @ Ga. Southern

## Internet Address

www.socon.org

## Predicted Order of Finish

## 1 Georgia Southern Eagles

'97 Record: 10-3 (7-1 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 17 (9 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The entire offensive line returns, including All-Southern performers Mark Williams at tackle and Rich McGrath at guard.

## 2 East Tennessee St. Buccaneers

'97 Record: 7-4 (5-3)  
RS: 14 (7 off., 5 def., 2 sp. teams)  
QB Todd Wells (Southern Freshman of the Year) and the backfield of Brian Edwards and

Brandon Walker lead the attack.

## 3 Appalachian State Mountaineers

'97 Record: 7-4 (6-2)  
RS: 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Mountaineers' offensive line also returns intact. But the team loses over 83 percent of its offense with the departures of QB Bake Baker and RB Gerard Hardy.

## 4 Furman Paladins

'97 Record: 7-4 (5-3)  
RS: 13 (9 off., 3 def., 1 sp. team)  
Among the eight starters lost on defense were three all-conference selections. LB Orlando Ruff is back.

## 5 Western Carolina Catamounts

'97 Record: 3-8 (3-5)  
RS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Tennessee QB transfer Shawn Snyder was the MVP of spring practice in '98.

## 6 UT-Chattanooga Moccasins

'97 Record: 7-4 (4-4)  
RS: 15 (7 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The passing combo of QB Brian Hampton and WR Stephon Hawkins will again be the show.

## 7 The Citadel Bulldogs

'97 Record: 6-5 (4-4)  
RS: 13 (6 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams).

Tailback Antonio Smith was leading the conference in rushing until an injury knocked him out in week six of the season.

## 8 Wofford Terriers

'97 Record: 3-7 (2-6)  
RS: 15 (6 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Wofford is weak at the skill positions on offense and on the defensive line.

## 9 VMI Keydets

'97 Record: 0-11 (0-8)  
RS: 10 (3 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Keydets probably made a wise move when they switched their opener from Miami (Fla.) to D-II Lenoir-Rhyne.

By Jonathan Tesser

By the end of the 1997 season, the Southland Football League had a distinct Louisiana flavor. McNeese State and Northwestern State finished on top with 6-1 records, Bobby Keasler at McNeese and Sam Goodwin at Northwestern State shared Coach of the Year honors, and both teams made it to the I-AA playoffs. But while McNeese made it to the championship game (losing to Youngstown State, 10-9), Northwestern was blown out in the first round by Eastern Washington, 40-14. During the season, McNeese trampled the Demons, 50-7. These two are the cream of the Southland crop in '98, but once again McNeese has the edge. Stephen F. Austin loses most of its defense but should hold off an improving Nicholls State squad. Sam Houston State also takes a significant hit on defense, but should be in decent shape on the other side of the ball. The most improved team in the league could be Jacksonville State, especially if the defense takes to the "50" scheme introduced by coach Mike Williams.

## Must-See

## Offensive Players

1. Blake Prejean, QB, McNeese St.
2. Ronald Bonner, WR, Jack. St.
3. Ronnie Powell, RB, N'western St.

## Defensive Players

1. Robert Daniels, DL, N'Western St.
2. Charles Ayro, LB, McNeese State
3. Marcus Spriggs, DL, Troy State

## Games

- Oct. 17, McNeese St. @ N'western St.  
Oct. 24, S. F. Austin @ McNeese St.  
Nov. 21, N'western St. @ S. F. Austin

## Internet Address

None

## Predicted Order of Finish

## 1 McNeese St. Cowboys

'97 Record: 13-2 (6-1 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 17 (7 off., 9 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The league's top-scoring offense returns QB Blake Prejean and TB William Davis (both All-Southern), while all-conference performers Blair Bradley (end) and Charles Ayro (linebacker) fortify the league's leading defense from '97.

## 2 Northwestern St. Demons

'97 Record: 8-4 (6-1)  
RS: 14 (6 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
TB Ronnie Powell had two 200-

yard rushing games during the season to tie Joe Delaney's school record, then added a 206-yard effort in the playoffs.

## 3 Stephen F. Austin Lumberjacks

'97 Record: 8-3 (5-2)  
RS: 10 (6 off., 3 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Despite the loss of wideout Mikhael Ricks, a second-round NFL pick, the Lumberjacks should continue putting points on the board.

## 4 Nicholls State Colonels

'97 Record: 5-6 (3-4)  
RS: 16 (8 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Experience on offense will translate into more production; in '97 they

finished last in total offense and points scored.

## 5 Sam Houston State Bearcats

'97 Record: 5-6 (3-4)  
RS: 12 (6 off., 4 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Wide receiver Matt Dominguez was named the Southland Freshman of the Year after posting 43 receptions for 818 yards last year.

## 6 Jacksonville State Gamecocks

'97 Record: 1-10 (1-6)  
RS: 15 (7 off., 6 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The senior combo of QB Montressa Kirby (the Southland's total offense leader) and WR Ronald Bonner (62

receptions, 1,010 yards) returns for the league's top passing offense.

## 7 Troy State Trojans

'97 Record: 5-6 (2-5)  
RS: 16 (7 off., 7 def., 2 sp. teams)  
The Trojans placed a league-high four players on the All-Southland defense, but only DT Marcus Spriggs returns this season.

## 8 SW Texas Bobcats

'97 Record: 5-6 (2-5)  
RS: 10 (6 off., 3 def., 1 sp. teams)  
In addition to taking a hit on defense, the Bobcats lose 89 percent of their offense with the loss of QB David Williams and RB Claude Mathis.



## Must-See

### Offensive Players

1. Steve Wofford, RB, Southern
2. Darnell Kennedy, QB, Alabama St.
3. D. Hodge, WR, Alabama St.

### Defensive Players

1. Terry Houzah, LB, Miss. Valley St.
2. J. Williams, DL, Southern
3. C. Atkins, DB, Arkansas-Pine Bluff

### Games

- Nov. 28, Grambling vs. Southern  
Oct. 17, Southern vs. Jackson St.  
Oct. 3, Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. Alcorn St.

### Internet Address

None

By O.K. Davis

Can this be the same SWAC we've known for so many years, the one that featured a living legend named Eddie Robinson? Well, welcome to the new SWAC. One where The Main Man in the historically black, traditionally well-balanced league is gone. But he leaves behind one of his former pupils at the Tigers' helm. Doug Williams, the former Grambling All-American, will follow in the footsteps of the college game's all-time leader in victories. Of course, he has huge shoes to fill. Williams will do it with an offensive style totally different from Robinson's. Grambling will switch from the wing-T that it has employed for 50-plus seasons to a more wide-open, pro-style attack. "We're hoping it helps bring back the winning tradition to a school I love dearly," Williams said. Williams isn't the only new face on the SWAC block this fall. Two other familiar names in the conference have left. At Alcorn State, Cardell Jones vacancy will be filled by Johnny Thomas. At Alabama State, Ron Dickerson (late of Temple) replaces Houston Markham.

## Predicted Order of Finish

### 1 Southern University Jaguars

'97 Record: 11-1 (8-0 conf.)  
Returning Starters: 15 (8 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Steve Wofford, precision passer  
Marcus Jacoby, speed-burning  
wideout Jerry Guye and Coach of the Year Pete Richardson return.

### 2 Jackson State Tigers

'97 Record: 9-3 (7-1)  
RS: 12 (6 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
All-star quarterback Grailyn Pratt is gone, but nationally ranked rusher Destry Wright and wide receiver Corey Bradford return.

### 3 Arkansas-Pine Bluff Golden Lions

'97 Record: 8-3 (6-2)  
RS: 15 (7 off., 8 def.)  
The Golden Lions return strong-armed QB Rob Robinson and punter Byron White.

### 4 Alcorn State Braves

'97 Record: 4-7 (4-4)  
RS: 11 (6 off., 4 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Kickoff returner Charles Jackson and punt return specialist Damon Felder both finished among the nation's top 20 in 1997.

### 5 Texas Southern Tigers

'97 Record: 5-6 (4-4)  
RS: 14 (6 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)

The Tigers could be the "sleeper" team in the league. They have one of the country's top kickoff/punt return artists in Joey Jamison.

### 6 Grambling St. Tigers

'97 Record: 3-8 (2-6)  
RS: 14 (7 off., 7 def.)  
Doug Williams' focus will be on the QB situation; transfers Pete Burks and Lionel Hayes could wind up in a platoon system.

### 7 Mississippi Valley St. Delta Devils

'97 record: 4-6 (3-5)  
RS: 14 (6 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Devils will depend on their defense, led by LB Terry Houzah.

### 8 Alabama St. Hornets

'97 record: 3-8 (2-6)  
RS: 13 (7 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Hornets' aerial attack could be awesome with the return of QB Darnell Kennedy and two of the league's top 10 receivers.

### 9 Prairie View A&M Panthers

'97 Record: 0-9 (0-8)  
RS: 11 (5 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
Thank goodness for senior Chris Allen, one of the top receivers, kickoff returners and breakaway threats in the league. But he'll probably have to suffer through another winless season.

# Independents

# 1-AA

## Must-See

### Offensive Players

1. Giovanni Carmazzi, QB, Hofstra
2. Willie Taggart, QB, W. Kentucky
3. Brock Madsen, RB, S. Utah

### Defensive Players

1. Jesse Riley, LB, Liberty
2. Fred Bishop, LB, Samford
3. O. Orozco, LB, Cal Poly SLO

### Games

- Sept. 19, Cal. Poly SLO @ Montana  
Sept. 19, E. Kentucky @ W. Kentucky  
Nov. 14, Liberty @ Hofstra

By Don VanderVeen

For a Division I-AA school seemingly headed for football oblivion, Morehead State is living proof that a program can survive and remain competitive without the benefit of athletic scholarships. Football scholarships at the Kentucky school were eliminated in 1995 and the program appeared to be headed for disaster. But coach Matt Ballard has so far turned that negative into a positive. Since going 2-8 in 1995 after the scholarship cuts were announced, Morehead State has rebounded with two straight winning seasons. Morehead State provides students with need-based scholarships, but many of the athletes receive little or no financial aid. One of Morehead State's losses in '97 was a 38-24 setback to Western Kentucky, which advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. Western Kentucky looks to retain its playoff form this year along with fellow independents Hofstra, Cal Poly SLO and Liberty.

## Predicted Order of Finish

### 1 Liberty Flames

'97 Record: 9-2  
Returning Starters: 19 (7 off., 10 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Jesse Riley leads a D that ranked 2nd in the nation in turnover margin.

### 2 Hofstra Flying Dutchmen

'97 Record: 9-2  
RS: 16 (6 off., 8 def., 2 sp. teams)  
QB Giovanni Carmazzi completed better than 70 percent of his passes in '97.

### 3 Western Kentucky Hilltoppers

'97 Record: 10-2  
RS: 16 (8 off., 7 def., 1 sp. teams)  
The Hilltoppers led the nation in rushing; QB Willie Taggart ran for 1,257 yards and 16 TDs.

### 4 Cal Poly SLO Mustangs

'97 Record: 10-1  
RS: 12 (6 off., 5 def., 1 sp. teams)  
RBs Antonio Warren and Craig Young return.

### 5 S. Utah Thunderbirds

'97 Record: 5-6  
RS: 16 (9 off., 6 def., 1 sp. teams)  
RB Brook Madsen has totaled 2,619 yards over the past two years.

### 6 Samford Bulldogs

'97 Record: 7-4  
RS: 20 (8 off., 10 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Samford sports a D led by LB Fred Bishop and FS John Buchanan.

### 7 South Florida Bulls

'97 Record: 5-6  
RS: 24 (11 off., 11 def., 2 sp. teams)  
Preparing for a jump to I-A's C-USA.

### 8 St. Mary's (Calif.) Gaels

'97 Record: 4-6

RS: 10 (3 off., 7 def.)  
The Gaels lost their all-time leading passer and third all-time rusher.

### 9 Morehead St. Eagles

'97 Record: 7-3  
RS: 17 (8 off., 9 def.)  
David Bone and Joevon Stennett return in the backfield.

### 10 Buffalo Bulls

'97 Record: 2-9  
RS: 13 (8 off., 5 def.)  
QB Chad Salisbury and WR Drew Haddad return for Buffalo.

### 11 Davidson Wildcats

'97 Record: 3-8  
RS: 14 (5 off., 9 def.)  
The '97 defense six times surrendered the winning score in the final two minutes.

### 12 Jacksonville Dolphins

'97 Record: None

RS: None  
Coach Steve Gilbert starts his program from scratch.

### 13 Charleston Southern Buccaneers

'97 Record: 1-9  
RS: 13 (5 off., 8 def.)  
In seven years, the Bucs have never had a winning season.

### 14 LaSalle Explorers

'97 Record: 1-8  
RS: 19 (8 off., 9 def., 2 sp. teams)  
LaSalle is coming off its first football season in 56 years with its first full recruiting class.

### 15 Austin Peay Governors

'97 Record: 0-10  
RS: 20 (9 off., 11 def.)  
The Governors best chance comes Oct. 3 when they play Jacksonville.



# Division II

## By Mike Goens

In 1995, North Alabama achieved the unthinkable—three consecutive national championships. Now there's another team on the verge of duplicating the unthinkable, and all eyes will be on Northern Colorado as it tries to match North Alabama's history-making reign of supremacy in Division II.

"There are just so many darn good teams that you've really got to consider yourself very fortunate to win the championship once," said Northern Colorado coach Joe Glenn. "We consider ourselves very fortunate to have won it twice. To be totally honest, we haven't given much thought to the three-peat stuff. I just don't think it can happen if you look beyond the first game. If you get dumb and happy with yourself, you're just asking for trouble in this division because there's someone capable of knocking you out of there every week."

At the same time, Glenn sees some comparisons between his team and the squad that won three straight titles at North Alabama. "What they accomplished tells me they had a terrific run," he said. "They had an outstanding team, they were well coached and they had some outstanding kids. I think what our program has accomplished says the same things about us."

### 1. NORTHERN COLORADO Bears

**Overview:** There is little question that Northern Colorado is the team to beat. The Bears, a 51-0 winner over New Haven in last year's title game, have 17 starters back. They have talent in every area, although Glenn points out that the graduation losses involve players who made the difference many times last season. "I hate that word potential," Glenn said. "As far as I'm concerned, it begins all over this year against Adams State on Sept. 5. In our [North Central Conference], it will be murder just getting into a position to go back to the playoffs."

Glenn believes most of his team's toughest league games will be away from home, but the Bears are "taxi tested," having become the first national champ in Division II to play four postseason games on the road.

The Bears' forte will be defense, with end Aaron Smith a dominating player. Smith had 84 tackles, including 21 for losses, 21.5 sacks, four fumble recoveries and an interception. Linebacker Scott Zimmerman had 139 tackles last year. Quarterback Corte McGuffey has shown the ability to win close games and he completed 61.5 percent of his passes last year. The key will be the offensive line and finding a solid running game.

### 2. CARSON-NEWMAN (TENN.) Eagles

**Overview:** If Northern Colorado stumbles, Carson-Newman is among the group that's capable of winning the division's top prize. The Eagles have had their season ended by the eventual national champ the last five years, including 30-29 to Northern Colorado in the semifinals last year. They are 23-3 over the last two seasons.

Carson-Newman will be loaded offensively with nine starters back. QB Zac Allen passed for 1,829 yards and 12 TDs. Receiver Jacques Rumph has breakaway speed and guard Alan Collis is solid. On defense, tackle Cedric Killings is a load to handle at 325 pounds.

### 3. NW MISSOURI STATE Bearcats

**Overview:** The Bearcats lost in the quarterfinals to Northern Colorado in 1996 and '97. "It's time that we take the next step," said coach Mel Tjeerdsma. That could be possible with eight starters back on defense and seven on offense. The defensive front is about as solid as you'll find,

and linebacker Aaron Crowe and defensive back Twan Young are also quality performers. Key players to watch on offense are QB Chris Greisen, RB Derek Lane, and WRs Willie Cohen and Seneca Holmes.

### 4. CALIFORNIA-DAVIS Aggies

**Overview:** California-Davis hasn't played in the national championship game since 1982, but the Aggies have a chance to end that drought. They will again play one of the most demanding schedules in Division II and will try to use that to their advantage as they attempt to get past the national semifinals. Nine players are back from an offense that set 36 school records last year. The leaders are QB Kevin Daft (3,696 yards and 33 TDs), TE Wes Terrell, and WRs John Shoemaker (68 catches) and Francis Montes (1,013 receiving yards). RB Gerald Burgin also rushed for 1,307 yards. The defense will be built around end Josh Anstey, who missed last year with an injury.

### 5. NORTH ALABAMA Lions

**Overview:** North Alabama could be the team that stands between Northern Colorado and its date with history. The Lions, 9-3 last season, have a new coach in former defensive coordinator Bill Hyde. Defense will be North Alabama's trademark with nine starters back. The secondary—Marcus Hill (123 tackles and six INTs), Corey Harris, Tyrone Bell and Chad Sears—contains perhaps the best collection of pass defenders in the land. The offense is built around powerful TB Greg Manson, QB Tyler Peterson and TE Bobby Collins.

### 6. PITTSBURG STATE (KAN.) Gorillas

**Overview:** Another title contender is Pittsburg State. The role is nothing new for the Gorillas, who have been a fixture in the Top 10 much of the decade. With several key players back from a 9-2 squad, big things are again expected. The defense, with eight starters back, should be strong once again. The best among the group is tackle Chad Webb, who often grabs the attention of two or three offensive linemen. Only six return to the offense, but QB Zack Siegrist is the leader.

### 7. TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE Javelinas

**Overview:** Another fixture among the nation's elite has been Texas A&M-Kingsville. The

## ALL-DIVISION II TEAM

### OFFENSE

Pos	Player	College	Ht/Wt	Yr
QB	Kevin Daft	Cal-Davis	6-2/200	Sr.
RB	Phillip Moore	N. Dakota	6-0/185	Sr.
RB	Anthony Gray	W. New Mexico	6-2/225	Sr.
WR	Mike McKinney	St. Cloud State	6-3/190	Sr.
WR	Jason Trice	Grand Valley	6-1/190	Sr.
TE	Wes Terrell	Cal-Davis	6-4/240	Sr.
OL	Tim Baer	Bloomsburg	6-1/288	Sr.
OL	Kent Kretz	Saginaw Valley	6-7/270	Sr.
OL	Cliff Clemons	Tex. A&M-Kings	6-4/285	Jr.
OL	Chris Williams	West Georgia	6-2/293	Sr.
OL	Chris McKenzie	Cent. Oklahoma	6-2/300	Sr.

### DEFENSE

DL	Cedric Killings	Carson-Newman	6-3/325	Jr.
DL	Aaron Smith	N. Colorado	6-6/270	Sr.
DL	Chad Webb	Pittsburg State	6-1/280	Sr.
DL	Matt Kinsinger	Slippery Rock	6-2/250	Sr.
LB	Aaron Crowe	NW Missouri	6-0/225	Sr.
LB	Kevin Homer	Chadron State	6-3/240	Sr.
LB	S. Zimmerman	N. Colorado	6-1/240	Jr.
LB	Johnny Luter	Cent. Oklahoma	6-1/238	Sr.
DB	Marcus Hill	North Alabama	6-2/187	Sr.
DB	J. Hutchinson	Winona State	5-8/185	Sr.
DB	Jarvis Davis	Fayetteville St.	5-9/180	Sr.
DB	Twan Young	NW Missouri	5-8/180	Sr.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

P	Brian Moorman	Pittsburg State	6-1/171	Sr.
K	Shane Meyer	Cent. Missouri	5-9/200	Sr.
RS	Brian Shay	Emporia State	5-9/210	Sr.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Offensive** Player of the Year:  
Kevin Daft, California-Davis

**Defensive** Player of the Year:  
Aaron Smith, Northern Colorado

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Northern Colorado
2. Carson-Newman (Tenn.)
3. Northwest Missouri State
4. California-Davis
5. North Alabama
6. Pittsburg State (Kan.)
7. Texas A&M-Kingsville
8. North Dakota
9. Indiana-Pennsylvania
10. Grand Valley State (Mich.)
11. Albany State (Ga.)
12. North Dakota State
13. Southern Arkansas
14. Central Oklahoma
15. New Haven (Conn.)
16. Chadron State (Neb.)
17. Glenville State (W.Va.)
18. Nebraska-Omaha
19. Ferris State (Mich.)
20. Slippery Rock (Pa.)
21. Emporia State (Kan.)
22. Livingstone (N.C.)
23. Winona State (Minn.)
24. Central Arkansas
25. Bloomsburg (Pa.)



Javelinas are seeking their seventh straight Lone Star Conference title and seventh straight playoff trip. The unit will be built around the return of 25 lettermen and the addition of 11 transfers. Running back Jeremy Burnell is back to lead the running attack. He will run behind a huge offensive line, beefed up by 300-pound Houston transfer Kevin Carter and 325-pound Arkansas transfer Cash Doye. QB Matt Hickl's primary weapon is receiver Teddy Carrier. Defensive backs Terrence Davis and Cedric Johnson are superb.

#### 8. NORTH DAKOTA Fighting Sioux

**Overview:** The Fighting Sioux were 8-2 last year and have 15 of 22 starters and 32 lettermen back. North Dakota has a dangerous offense led by RB Phillip Moore, who set a school record by rushing for 1,771 yards last season. All five offensive linemen return along with tight end Jim Kleinsasser, who is a fierce blocker. Center Marcus McKenzie is also strong. They should help quarterback Sean Greenwaldt adjust to his starting role. On defense, linebacker Wes Atkinson and cornerback Erik Gunderson head the unit.

#### 9. INDIANA-PENNSYLVANIA Indians

**Overview:** After a disappointing season, Indiana-Pennsylvania is expected to be a strong contender from the East. The Indians were struck by injuries early and often last year and ended up finishing 5-5. It was a tough pill to swallow for a program that has been to eight of the last 11 playoffs.

If a quarterback comes through, IUP will be stout on offense, where nine starters are returning. The possible winner of the quarterback competition could be Paul Failla. He played in 26 games for Notre Dame (1991-93) before giving professional baseball a chance. The top three rushers are back along with receiver Lewis Hicks (59 catches) and four offensive linemen. Linebacker Phillip Woods is back from a 103-tackle season along with cornerback Barry Threats and six other starters.

#### 10. GRAND VALLEY STATE (MICH.) Lakers

**Overview:** The top team in Michigan is Grand Valley, and the Lakers may have enough strength to contend for national honors. They won a share of the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference title last year with a 9-2 mark and have nine starters back from an offense that scored 30 points a game last year. A total of 42 lettermen return, including six defensive starters. QB Jeff Fox accounted for nearly 3,000 yards of offense and threw 18 TD passes. His primary target, Jason Trice, grabbed 62 passes for 853 yards. The top defensive player, linebacker Matt Powell, is back after logging 127 stops last year. Lineman Keith O'Brien is a key up front.

#### 11. ALBANY STATE (GA.) Rams

**Overview:** The toast of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference during recent years has been Albany State, and don't expect that to change this year. The Rams went 11-1 during what was supposed to be a rebuilding year. They now eye a sixth straight league title. Defense will rule as 10 starters are back, including defensive back Octavia Jones, nose guard Tremaine Thomas, tackle Andre Slappeg and linebackers Willie Moreland and Detrich Whadley. The question mark is on offense, where four key performers were lost. However, RB Marcus Horton and Robert Cummings are back to lead the way.

#### 12. NORTH DAKOTA STATE Bison

**Overview:** The North Dakota State Bison, a team that formerly dominated the division, could

return to the top if they can only figure out how to win their own conference. NDSU has 41 lettermen back from a 9-3 squad, including seven offensive and six defensive starters. QB Kevin Fenney returns to direct an offense that scored 33 points and gained 400 yards per game, and running back Russ Hackel returns from injury. Luke Samuel anchors an offensive line that is seeking depth. Linebacker Clint Gjellstad and tackle Ronnie Steffen are the defensive leaders.

#### 13. SOUTHERN ARKANSAS Muleriders

**Overview:** Southern Arkansas came from obscurity to earn a share of the Gulf South Conference title last season. The Muleriders are again solid with 17 starters back, including nine on offense and seven on defense. Two others who started on defense in 1996 are also back in camp. QB Adam Pendergrass is a proven winner. Halfbacks Kendrick Law and Kevin Little provide breakaway threats in the backfield and Kell Clopton is among the league's best linemen. On defense, Josh Rankin is the only returnee at linebacker. Kendall Hill is strong up front.

#### 14. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA Bronchos

**Overview:** This could be the year that Central Oklahoma wrestles the league title from Texas A&M-Kingsville. The Bronchos were 9-2 a year ago and have 45 lettermen back. Although only five starters are back, the defense will be strengthened by the return of All-American linebacker Johnny Luter, who missed 1997 with an injury. Strong safety Brandon Carder had 104 stops last season. On offense, the top priority is replacing the quarterback and two linemen. Ryan Logan returns after rushing for 1,000 yards last year.

#### 15. NEW HAVEN (CONN.) Chargers

**Overview:** New Haven will attempt to duplicate a season that ended in the national title game. The Chargers have 13 starters back, but a quarterback and four offensive linemen must be replaced. Receivers Adam Roman (53 catches for 726 yards) and Elvert Eden (29 catches for 498) are expected to carry the load. On defense, linebacker Lidz Eugene, lineman Marshall Maxwell and back Troy Appling are the leaders.

#### 16. CHADRON STATE (NEB.) Eagles

**Overview:** Chadron doesn't get a lot of headlines in the football-rich state of Nebraska, but that could change this year. Nineteen starters—10 on offense and nine on defense—are back from the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference's best squad. Two superb players lead the defense: Linebacker Kevin Homer, who had 156 tackles during the 8-3 season, and free safety Ryan Turman, who added 107 stops and five INTs. QB Trevor Moon and RB Anthony Simmons return.

#### 17. GLENVILLE STATE (W. VA.) Pioneers

**Overview:** The nation's most explosive offense could belong to Glenville State. Quarterback Wilkie Perez threw for 4,200 yards last season to lead the Pioneers to a 9-3 mark. The running game will be improved with Byron Stephenson and Anthony Norton, but the receiving corps will be new with the exception of two-way performer Tierre McNair, who doubles as a free safety. Linebacker Brian Palmer and end Jeremiah Witherspoon head the defense.

#### 18. NEBRASKA-OMAHA Mavericks

**Overview:** The other team to keep your eye on in the North Central Conference is Nebraska-Omaha. The Mavericks were 8-3 last year and return 10 starters on offense and seven on defense, and many of their tougher league games

will be at home. The league's top quarterback from last year, Ed Thompson, returns after both rushing and throwing for over 1,000 yards. All the runners and four linemen also return. There are a couple of holes to fill on defense, but Ben Titus has the ability to lead the unit.

#### 19. FERRIS STATE (MICH.) Bulldogs

**Overview:** Ferris State had a disastrous season last year when injuries wiped out several key players, including starting QB Matt McCarthy. The result was a 3-7 campaign. McCarthy is back along with top runner Mo Harris, flanker Neal Mozdziej and tackle Dennis Strey. The defense will be built around cornerback Kelly Snell, end Jeff Ruffer and linebacker Charles Anderson.

#### 20. SLIPPERY ROCK (PA.) Rockets

**Overview:** Another threat from the East is Slippery Rock. The Rock finished seventh in the land a year ago and return 15 starters. Quarterback Randy McKavish passed for 2,558 yards, while Rick Magulick and Stan Kennedy each gained over 1,000 yards rushing. Nose tackle Matt Kinsinger had 12 sacks last season.

#### 21. EMPORIA STATE (KAN.) Hornets

**Overview:** If you're going to beat Emporia State this season, you better score some points. The Hornets have nine starters back from an offensive unit that led the country with 531.5 yards per game and averaged 42.3 points per contest. All-purpose standout Brian Shay returns after scoring 32 TDs. The key will be the performance of QB Trent Fuller who steps in as the starter. Eight starters return on defense, six of whom are juniors who have started since they were freshmen. Linemen Joe Cominsky and Bill Griffith lead the unit.

#### 22. LIVINGSTONE (N.C.) Bears

**Overview:** Livingstone will be out to gain respect. The Bears were on their way to the playoffs last year before they determined an ineligible player had been used. They still went on to post an 8-2 record. Running back Chris Williams heads the offensive returners. Receivers Tarnell Jones and Justin Brown are also big playmakers and Gerald Hilliard is a solid lineman. Defensively, Livingstone turns to LBs Jamil Davis and Wayne Majors and DB Reggie Johnson.

#### 23. WINONA STATE (MINN.) Warriors

**Overview:** Winona State could be the season's sleeper. The Warriors posted a 9-2 record last year and could be the top team in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. Ten defensive players are back, including safety Jamey Hutchinson, who grabbed 11 interceptions last year. The key will be filling five holes on offense.

#### 24. CENTRAL ARKANSAS Bears

**Overview:** Central Arkansas has been flirting with greatness in the Gulf South Conference and this could be their coming-out season. Despite a 6-4 mark a year ago, the Bears could have been much better had three close games gone differently. Fifteen starters from that squad are back. The key on offense is finding a steady quarterback, but the defense is solid with cornerback Danny Johnson being one of eight returnees.

#### 25. BLOOMSBURG (PA.) Huskies

**Overview:** Graduation took a big chunk out of the starting crew. However, the Huskies are still favored to repeat as Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference champs. Quarterback Eric Miller returns along with two outstanding linemen in Tim Baer and K.C. Neidigh. Justin Vent heads the defense.



# Division III

## By Dennis Wilson

Division III football embarks on a 1998 campaign with significant changes. The NCAA welcomes the Northwest Conference of Independent Colleges as full members, including Willamette University, which reached the championship game of the NAIA playoffs. With the new NCIC competing in the West Region, the NCAA has switched the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference plus independents Chapman and Menlo into the South Region. Six former independents—Chowan (N.C.), Ferrum (Va.), Frostburg State (Md.), Methodist (N.C.), Salisbury State (Md.) and Wesley (Del.)—have established the Atlantic Central Conference and remain in the South Region along with the Centennial Conference, Middle Atlantic Conference, Old Dominion Athletic Conference and Southern Collegiate Conference. Mount Union of the Ohio Athletic Conference has won the national championship for two consecutive years. The Purple Raiders are expected to be in the thick of contention again despite the graduation of quarterback Bill Borchert, who was awarded the Gagliardi Trophy and the Melberger Award as the D-III Player of the Year. The initial recipient of the Butterfield Award which honors an outstanding member of the D-III coaching profession was presented to Ron Schipper, the legendary coach who retired from Central (Iowa). National recognition of D-III football has been upgraded as *USA Today* and the three wire services (*The Associated Press*, *Sports Network*, *Sports Ticker*) carry the weekly USA Football Division III polls, while the Players of the Week can be viewed at [www.usafootball.com](http://www.usafootball.com).

### 1. SIMPSON (IOWA) Storm

**Overview:** Simpson is poised to reach the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl in December, as the Storm returns its entire interior offensive front wall. Last season, the Storm's offense was potent, setting new school records for total offense, rushing yardage and passing yardage. Expect the same level of proficiency this year. Clint Head is a preseason All-American on the offensive line and will pave the way for running backs Guy Leman and Shane Sorenson. Safeties Kenny Fry and Joe Beschoner fortify the defensive unit, while the kicking game is outstanding with punter Kane Young and placekicker Jeff Hayes.

### 2. LYCOMING (PA.) Warriors

**Overview:** After posting a 12-1 record with a berth in the Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, head coach Frank Girardi's Warriors return every skill-position player on offense and nine starters on defense. The Warriors return their entire defensive line anchored by a pair of outstanding defensive ends in senior Keith Jenkins and junior Cameron Coleman. Senior Larry Farr and sophomore Mark Seagreaves will man the tackle slots. The stalwarts on offense will be senior quarterback Jason Marraccini, senior running back Brian Thompson and junior wide receiver Tim Dumas.

### 3. MOUNT UNION (OHIO) Purple Raiders

**Overview:** Mount Union, the two-time defending national champions, own college

football's longest winning streak at 28 and returns nine starters. The offensive stalwarts are seniors Jason Carper and J.W. Wearley and junior Tom Bauer, all of whom play up front in the trenches. Linebacker Jason Hall and tackle B.J. Payne are standouts on the defensive side of the ball.

### 4. WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER Warhawks

**Overview:** Senior Ty Grovesteen returns for his third campaign as the starting quarterback after setting an NCAA record with 25 consecutive completions last season. Tony Magestro, Alex Greno, Ashby Hibbs and Jamal Patterson are talented, veteran wide receivers. Tight ends Andy Weber and Chris Korf are solid blockers and can catch. Art Gutierrez and Jeremy Doering provide Wisconsin-Whitewater with a solid linebacking corps.

### 5. ALLEGHENY (PA.) Gators

**Overview:** With 16 returning starters, the Gators will strive to reach the postseason playoffs for the seventh time this decade. The defense will be strong with 10 starters back led by free safety Tedd Gozur and strong safety Matt Pierce. Senior Nathan Six is one of the premier tight ends in Division III and could contend for All-American honors.

### 6. THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY Lions

**Overview:** Eric Hamilton, sporting a career mark of 131-76-7, starts his 22nd season at the helm with a string of three straight NCAA postseason berths intact. Jameon Cropper is

## ALL-DIVISION III TEAM

### OFFENSE

Pos	Player	College	Ht/Wt	Yr
QB	Chris Stormer	Hanover	6-3/215	Sr.
RB	Jameon Cropper	The College of N.J.	5-8/170	Sr.
RB	Matt Wichlinski	Susquehanna	5-6/200	Sr.
WR	Scott Hvistendahl	Augsburg	5-10/175	Sr.
WR	Scott Pingel	Westminster	6-1/180	Sr.
TE	Matt Surette	Worcester Poly	6-4/235	Sr.
OL	David Coney	Trinity (Texas)	6-1/290	Jr.
OL	Clint Head	Simpson	6-2/305	Sr.
OL	Zach Kessler	Allegheny	6-3/255	Sr.
OL	Nate Oswald	Loras	6-4/265	Jr.
OL	Doug Robertson	Guilford	6-1/290	Sr.

### DEFENSE

DL	Jaleel Abdullah	Menlo	6-0/230	Sr.
DL	Cameron Coleman	Lycoming	6-2/250	Jr.
DL	Jon Hulsman	Rose-Hulman	6-2/250	Sr.
DL	Tim Runnels	Washington (Mo.)	6-3/235	Jr.
LB	Kyle Fulcher	Miss. College	6-1/230	Sr.
LB	Jason Hall	Mount Union	6-3/240	Sr.
LB	Klint Kriewalt	Wis.-Steven's Pt.	6-2/230	Sr.
DB	Alex Doran	Trinity (Texas)	6-1/225	Sr.
DB	Peter Hinckle	Ursinus	6-1/200	Sr.
DB	Bob Maro	Albright	5-11/170	Sr.
DB	Sedrick Medlock	Howard Payne	6-1/185	Sr.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

PK	Mike Stoehr	Montclair State	6-0/193	So.
P	Josh Schneider	John Carroll	6-2/190	So.
RS	Leon Payne	Widener	5-8/215	Jr.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Offensive** Player of the Year:

Chris Stormer, QB, Hanover

**Defensive** Player of the Year:

Alex Doran, DB, Trinity (Texas)

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Simpson (Iowa)
2. Lycoming (Pa.)
3. Mount Union (Ohio)
4. Wisconsin-Whitewater
5. Allegheny (Pa.)
6. The College of New Jersey
7. Central (Iowa)
8. Trinity (Texas)
9. Adrian (Mich.)
10. Hanover (Ind.)
11. Washington & Jefferson (Pa.)
12. Ohio Northern (Ohio)
13. Western Maryland (Md.)
14. Willamette (Ore.)
15. Loras (Iowa)
16. Ithaca (N.Y.)
17. John Carroll
18. Augsburg (Minn.)
19. DePauw (Ind.)
20. St. John's (Minn.)
21. Union (N.Y.)
22. Hope (Mich.)
23. Wartburg (Iowa)
24. Wisconsin-La Crosse
25. Hardin-Simmons (Texas)



a talented running back while the defensive unit will be led by linebacker Tom Ruggia who came up with 19 sacks for minus 121 yards last year.

#### **7. CENTRAL (IOWA) Flying Dutchmen**

**Overview:** Seven starters return on defense, including cornerback Andrew Paulsen and linebacker Jeff Sanger. There is talent in the receiver slots with senior Chris Johnson as well as Justin Quaass, who returns after missing the 1997 campaign with an injury. Four of the five starters on the offensive line return, anchored by powerful center Steve Olsen.

#### **8. TRINITY (TEXAS) Tigers**

**Overview:** With 15 starters returning, head coach Steve Mohr's Tigers look to return to the playoffs. Defensively, the secondary returns intact and is led by senior Alex Doran, who missed last season due to an injury. Paul Morris, a junior, is one of the premier placekickers in the nation, and the offense will be paced by junior signal caller Mike Burton.

#### **9. ADRIAN (MICH.) Bulldogs**

**Overview:** The defending MIAA co-champions are looking for another memorable year with coach Jim Lyall welcoming a dozen returning starters, including senior quarterback Dan Hutchison (6-4, 210), who was a first-team MIAA All-Star. Jeremy Lewin (6-3, 290) and Jason Mensing (6-0, 262) are the top offensive linemen, and senior LB Craig Weigel is a three-year starter.

#### **10. HANOVER (IND.) Panthers**

**Overview:** Quarterback Chris Stormer returns to lead the Panthers' one-back spread attack that helped Hanover post its second 10-1 record in the last three seasons. Stormer's aeriels will be directed to wide receivers Tarrik Wilson and Andy Mitchell. Running back Bill Wilcox is also a receiving threat. The defensive front wall of Scott Buening, Shawn Turner, Chris Smith and Jason Welty will be looked upon to shut down the opposition.

#### **11. WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON (PA.) Presidents**

**Overview:** Eight defensive starters return from the ninth-ranked defense in the nation, led by two-time PAC all-star linebackers Kevin O'Malley and Harry Silvis. On offense, Washington & Jefferson returns starting quarterback Brad O'Malley along with veteran running backs Jason Barr and Brian Gomez. Offensive linemen Eugene Crosby and Rob Phillips form the foundation of a steady running attack.

#### **12. OHIO NORTHERN Polar Bears**

**Overview:** Coming off its best season in 50 years with an 8-2 record, Ohio Northern

returns 15 starters. Quarterback Joe Zarlinga threw for 2,349 yards and 22 touchdowns with a rating of 147.27, all Polar Bear single-season records. Len VanDeVelde, Jason Patterson and Dirul Nassar provide a veteran defensive front wall, and cornerback Nate Riles is a potential All American.

#### **13. WESTERN MARYLAND**

##### **Green Terror**

**Overview:** With Ron Sermarini returning for two more years at quarterback, the Green Terror will challenge for postseason bids with nine returning starters on the offensive unit. Tom Selecky will anchor the team's strong defense from his linebacker post. Western Maryland finished second nationally in overall defense last year, limiting the opposition to 175.5 yards per game.

#### **14. WILLAMETTE (ORE.) Bearcats**

**Overview:** Mark Speckman takes over as head coach after three seasons as the Bearcats' offensive coordinator. Junior Tim Blair is a big-play threat out of the backfield, and senior Brian Greer anchors the offensive line. The defensive front wall features Eric Thomson, and Kamell Eckroth-Bernard is a standout in the defensive secondary while doubling as a kick returner.

#### **15. LORAS (IOWA) Duhawks**

**Overview:** Six of the Duhawks' top seven tacklers return, led by John Kruswicki, who picked off five interceptions in the defensive secondary. Mike Holman and Nate Oswald provide size and experience up front in the offensive trenches, and Lonnie Moore could be a dominant tight end.

#### **16. ITHACA (N.Y.) Bombers**

**Overview:** There is outstanding depth on the defensive side of the ball with seven starters back. Tim Carley and Justin Griffin anchor the front wall while the secondary is strong with cornerback Jeff Tremlett and safeties Brian Austin and Edwin Rivera. Michael O'Donovan is the incumbent signal caller who set a dozen new Bomber records last year. He will fire strikes to receivers Matt Buddenhagen and Abe Ceesay.

#### **17. JOHN CARROLL (OHIO) Blue Streaks**

**Overview:** Seven Ohio Athletic Conference All Stars return from a team that went 10-2 with a bid to the D-III postseason. On offense, the Blue Streaks return nine starters, with senior quarterback Nick Caserio in his third campaign as a starter after compiling a 21-4-2 record. Junior free safety Tom Rini leads the defensive unit.

#### **18. AUGSBURG (MINN.) Auggies**

**Overview:** After claiming their first Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship since 1928 last season and first-ever berth in the D-III playoffs, the

Auggies are looking for a repeat performance. Scott Hvistendahl is an All-American wide receiver.

#### **19. DEPAUW (IND.) Tigers**

**Overview:** Switching into the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference following a second place finish in the Indiana Collegiate Athletic Conference, the Tigers return three members of a stellar defensive front wall in Dan Thompson, Grant Hale and Ayo George. Overall, there are 15 returning starters from last year's 8-2 squad.

#### **20. ST. JOHN'S (MINN.) Johnnies**

**Overview:** Senior Adam Herbst is a game-breaker from his wide receiver slot while classmates Roland Buller and Paul Trobec form a potent running back combo. They will run for daylight behind the blocking of center John LeMieur and guard James DeLeon.

#### **21. UNION (N.Y.) Dutchmen**

**Overview:** Defense will be the name of the game for the Dutchmen. They have seven starters returning, led by senior safety James Rozakis, junior cornerback Joe Attanasio and sophomore CB Devon Wimberly. Senior Chris Doraz and sophomore Adam Tyksunski are talented linebackers.

#### **22. HOPE (MICH.) Flying Dutchmen**

**Overview:** Senior Tony Petkus leads the offensive front wall, and classmates Adam Paarlberg at linebacker and Dave DeHommel in the secondary are the stalwarts on defense for the defending MIAA champions. Justin Wormmeester returns as the starting quarterback.

#### **23. WARTBURG (IOWA) Knights**

**Overview:** Tailback Trevor Shannon will look to surpass the 1,000 yard mark in rushing for a third straight season. Sophomore Matt Wheeler won the starting nod at quarterback midway through the 1997 campaign. On defense, Mark Hargrafen and Anthony Souhrada anchor the front wall.

#### **24. WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE Eagles**

**Overview:** Beau Coulter could be the WIAC's top running back. Mike Scheuer is a potential All American at safety, and Mike Moseler and Kristoff Ausderau are other talented veterans in the defensive secondary. Mike Deans is a hard-hitting linebacker for a defense that returns eight starters.

#### **25. HARDIN-SIMMONS (TEXAS)**

##### **Cowboys**

**Overview:** The entire offensive line returns, led by seniors Jesse Burleton (center), Roy Garcia (guard) and Rocky Smart (tackle). The line should help make for a powerful ground game, which features running back Patrick Baca. Veteran linebackers Robert Brown and Ryan Jacobs anchor the defensive unit.



## By Bill Doherty

As the number of NAIA-affiliated schools continues to dwindle, many traditional NAIA powers are seeking refuge in the NCAA Division II and Division III ranks. For instance, Findlay (Ohio) and Westminster (Pa.)—winners of 10 total NAIA football titles since 1970—will play D-II ball in the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference this fall.

It takes three seasons to be a full-fledged D-II member, so Westminster has served its time and is in. However, Findlay will have dual membership (both D-II and NAIA) this fall but isn't eligible for the Division II playoffs yet. So, they could elect to go back and defend their 1997 NAIA title if they are selected as an NAIA playoff team.

### 1. SIOUX FALLS (S.D.) Cougars

**Overview:** The Cougars, who won the NAIA Division II title back in 1996, will make a run at another national crown if they can shore up some holes in the secondary. The offense, led by workhorse All-American runner David Ruter (1,445 yards, school-record 26 TDs) and sophomore option whiz Dax Michelena (9 TDs rushing, 22 passing), should be lethal. Although there are some holes to fill along the offensive line, senior Jason Grenevitch (6-5, 310) is one of the nation's best. The defense loses three-fourths of the secondary, but returns Mat Ornelas, who finished with a team-best 106 tackles and 8½ sacks.

### 2. GENEVA (PA.) GOLDEN Tornadoes

**Overview:** An NAIA playoff quarterfinalist in 1997, Gene DeMarco's Golden Tornadoes have the wide bodies to play with the NAIA's big boys. Four starters return on the offensive line: Kevin Murray (6-2, 295), Harry Romigh (6-4, 295), Chuck Burns (6-3, 305) and Dave Petras (6-1, 290). They'll power a high-octane offense that returns QB Justin Myers (3,110 yards, 31 TDs), RB Melvin Cobbs (over 1,200 yards rushing) and receiver Mike Holaren (14 TDs). The defensive front seven should be tough to push around, led by two-time NAIA honorable mention All-American defensive end John Schmitt and junior linebackers Jeff Mihok and Mike Ribar.

### 3. MONTANA TECH Orediggers

**Overview:** Coach Bob Green usually makes his annual NAIA playoff run on the strength of his wide-open offense, but the script will be different this season. Green must lean on a veteran defense (8 returning starters) and a behemoth offensive line while he breaks in an all-new collection of skill players. The team's primary strength is its secondary, paced by All-American free safety Blaine Hardy (NAIA-best 10 interceptions in '97) and senior cornerback Guy Hall (57 tackles, 6 INTs). Whoever emerges from the three-way quarterback derby will have a pair of highly touted transfers to hand the ball off to: Brian Singleton (Colorado State) and Caleb Zimmerman (Idaho).

### 4. FINDLAY (OHIO) Oilers

**Overview:** The defending NAIA champs are in a strange boat. Although they will play in a Division II conference, they will only be eligible for the NAIA playoffs—if chosen. Although the Oilers were hard-hit by graduation, two senior first-team NAIA All-Americans do return in tight end Darrell Ramsey (41 catches, 685 yards, 10 TDs) and cornerback Craig Aukerman (91 total tackles, 3 INTs). Senior standup linebacker Roger Hamilton (17 sacks) is back to terrorize enemy quarterbacks. The key to the season will be finding a replacement

for 1997 NAIA Player of the Year QB Bo Hurley. The two most likely suspects are junior Trevin Sears and hotshot freshman recruit Bryan Hieber from Ohio.

### 5. MINNESOTA-CROOKSTON Golden Eagles

**Overview:** Head coach Scott Oliver makes no bones about it. His team's main goals in 1998 are to win a North Dakota College Athletic Conference title and to make a run at an NAIA national championship. With 60 lettermen returning, that is not a pipe dream. The offense could be even more explosive than last year's thanks to the return of second-team All-American tailback Mark Olsonawski. He'll run behind a powerful offensive line that's anchored by sophomore tackle Jarred Robinson (6-3, 270). The defense, which ranked third nationally in total defense, will be tough again with the return of senior linebacker Mike Nordy and linemen Jeremy Kvien and Chad Carlson.

### 6. EVANGEL (MO.) Crusaders

**Overview:** Coach Keith Barefield has nine returning starters on defense, but only three from an offense that helped the Crusaders cruise all the way to the NAIA quarterfinals last season. The well-stocked defense will be paced by a pair of All-American candidates in senior linebacker Edward Moye (88 tackles, 4 sacks) and senior tackle T. Clark Wilson (52 tackles, team-high 28 QB pressures). Junior QB Brandon Kelley will try to fill the cleats of Eric Black, who left the school with 24 Evangel passing records.

### 7. JAMESTOWN (N.D.) Jimmies

**Overview:** Jamestown, an NAIA playoff quarterfinalist in 1997, should battle Minnesota-Crookston for the North Dakota Conference title. The strength of this tough unit will no doubt be its front seven, led by second-team All-American defensive end J.J. Syvrud (15 sacks) and honorable mention All-American linebacker Jason Ganje (90 tackles). The offense is in the capable hands of Josh Otteson, who will have two trusted targets in Chad Hall (44 catches, 6 TDs) and Brent Lucas (31, 6 TDs).

### 8. BENEDICTINE (KAN.) Ravens

**Overview:** The Ravens were a top-10 team last season and with 12 returning starters, Larry Wilcox's club should be among the nation's elite in 1998. The offense features the pass-catch combo of senior quarterback Bill Lindquist (1,653 passing yards, 13 TDs) and sophomore wide receiver Cory Schrick (36 catches, 701 yards, 7 TDs). Lindquist should be well-protected behind a large offensive line anchored by junior guard Matt Walls (6-5, 295). The defensive forward wall will be built around one-man wrecking ball Mike Federico, a 280-pound senior who can squat 615 pounds. A

## ALL-NAIA TEAM

### OFFENSE

POS	PLAYER	COLLEGE	HT/WT	YR
QB	Justin Myers	Geneva	6-1/190	Sr.
RB	M. Olsonawski	Minn.-Crookston	5-9/175	Sr.
RB	Griff Yates	Southern Oregon	6-0/180	Jr.
RB	Damont Skanes	Walsh	5-10/180	Sr.
WR	Chris Horn	Rocky Mtn. Coll.	5-11/190	Sr.
WR	Dexter Davis	Azusa Pacific	5-9/165	Sr.
TE	Darrell Ramsey	Findlay	6-4/250	Sr.
OL	Zach Brown	Montana Tech	6-4/255	Sr.
OL	Kevin Murray	Geneva	6-2/295	Jr.
OL	Luc McGhee	Peru State	6-2/265	Sr.
OL	J. Grenevitch	Sioux Falls	6-5/310	Sr.
OL	C. Hattabaugh	Bethany	6-3/280	Sr.

### DEFENSE

DL	J.J. Syvrud	Jamestown	6-3/270	Sr.
DL	Eric Thomson	Willamette	6-2/230	Sr.
DL	John Schmitt	Geneva	6-1/235	Sr.
DL	Mike Federico	Benedictine	6-2/280	Sr.
LB	Roger Hamilton	Findlay	6-0/215	Sr.
LB	Edward Moye	Evangel	6-1/235	Sr.
LB	Brandon Folkert	Willamette	6-0/192	Sr.
DB	Craig Aukerman	Findlay	6-2/175	Sr.
DB	Kip Edwards	Friends	5-8/175	Jr.
DB	Blaine Hardy	Montana Tech	6-2/185	Sr.
DB	Guy Hall	Montana Tech	6-3/195	Sr.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Dustin Serland	Montana Tech	6-0/160	Sr.
P	P. Bannister	N. Greenville	6-1/260	Sr.
RS	B. Murphy	McKendree	6-2/190	So.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Offensive** Player of the Year: Damont Skanes, Walsh (Ohio)

**Defensive** Player of the Year: Blaine Hardy, Montana Tech

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Sioux Falls (S.D.)
2. Geneva (Pa.)
3. Montana Tech
4. Findlay (Ohio)
5. Minnesota-Crookston
6. Evangel (Mo.)
7. Jamestown (N.D.)
8. Benedictine (Kan.)
9. Willamette (Ore.)
10. Walsh (Ohio)
11. Campbellsville (Ky.)
12. Central Washington
13. Ottawa (Kan.)
14. Doane (Neb.)
15. Baker (Kan.)
16. Bethany (Kan.)
17. Dickinson State (N.D.)
18. McKendree (Ill.)
19. Western Oregon
20. Peru State (Neb.)
21. Olivet Nazarene (Ill.)
22. Mid-America Nazarene (Kan.)
23. Tri-State (Ind.)
24. Southern Oregon
25. Malone (Ohio)



strong secondary features cornerback Shem Johnson and strong safety Curtis Coppinger.

#### **9. WILLAMETTE (ORE.) Bearcats**

**Overview:** Willamette's 13-1 dream season included everything but the championship as the Bearcats suffered a 14-7 loss to Findlay (Ohio) in the NAIA national title game. Despite losing head coach Dan Hawkins to Boise State and all-everything quarterback Chuck Pinkerton to graduation, the Bearcats' program—which will have dual affiliation this fall (NAIA and NCAA Division III)—should be in good hands with former offensive coordinator Mark Speckman taking over as head coach. Speckman will retool his "Fly" offense around a flea in 5-7 Tim Blair, a first-team All-American flanker last fall. Senior Jay Douglas will be the new full-time guy under center. Six starters return on defense, led by a pair of returning NAIA All-Americans: linebacker Brandon Folkert and defensive lineman Eric Thomson.

#### **10. WALSH (OHIO) Cavaliers**

**Overview:** The Cavaliers return 20 starters and are entertaining serious hopes of capturing the Mid-States Football Association's power-packed Mideast League (which includes fellow Top 25 types Geneva, McKendree and Tri-State). Walsh coach Jim Denison, who preceded Gerry Faust at Akron, possesses a dynamite one-two running punch in senior Damont Skanes (the nation's second-leading rusher in '97 with 1,229 yards) and senior Ted Messer (800-plus yards). The defense will feature a top-notch front seven paced by senior tackles Matt Wood (6-3, 245) and Ryan Dutton (6-0, 245), and senior linebacker Dan Yaceczko (6-2, 205).

#### **11. CAMPBELLSVILLE (KY.) Fighting Tigers**

**Overview:** The reigning Mid-South Conference champs have been a handful since offensive coordinator David Fryear arrived two seasons ago. This year, the Fighting Tigers will be tough on the ground with junior All-American candidate Tim Mays (1,039 yards, 6 TDs) and through the air with pint-sized all-purpose quarterback Joe Don Looney. The 5-foot-7 Looney notched 1,098 yards passing and 643 yards rushing in '97. The defense is led by sackmeister Jimmy Hardesty (8½ sacks) and all-conference linebacker Dan McGill (team-best 101 stops).

#### **12. CENTRAL WASHINGTON Wildcats**

**Overview:** If Central Washington is to win the highly competitive Columbia Football Association as expected and get themselves an NAIA playoff berth, senior quarterback Casey Jacox, a legitimate All-American candidate, will lead the way. The 6-2 Jacox was second in NAIA ball in passing yards per game (269.1) last season. He has two valuable weapons in junior flanker Ty Nunez (28 catches, 535 yards, 6 TDs) and junior tailback Dan Murphy (team-best 13 TDs). The defense has eight regulars back, including senior linebacker John Garden (44 tackles) and proven defensive backs Leeland Sparks and John Hallead.

#### **13. OTTAWA (KAN.) Braves**

**Overview:** Last season, coach Chris Creighton authored one of the most amazing turnarounds in college football—taking over a 1-8 team and transforming them into a 9-2 NAIA playoff team. His secret? A three wide receiver set that scores points in bunches. This season, Creighton must break in a new quarterback, senior Brock Messa. He'll have a big (6-5) and sure-handed (39 catches) target in junior tight end Michael Hull. The defense returns nine starters, including a pair of All-America candidates in linebackers Adam Wait and Kendall Gunlock.

#### **14. DOANE (NEB.) Tigers**

**Overview:** Last season, Doane became the first Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference school to make it all the way to the NAIA semifinals where they fell by one point, 26-25, to eventual national champ Findlay. Coach Fran Schwenk lost six different players who earned various NAIA All-America honors last year. The building blocks on offense will be senior quarterback Chris Snyder (who redshirted last year), junior running back Dan Owens (6.1 yards per carry) and senior center Barry Brandt (6-2, 233). Junior linebacker Jeremy Hall will anchor the defense after logging 124 tackles and four INTs last year.

#### **15. BAKER (KAN.) Wildcats**

**Overview:** Entering his third season at the helm, head coach John Frangoulis has re-established this once-proud program (10 NAIA playoff appearances since 1980) that had fallen on hard times. In two seasons, Frangoulis is 13-8 after taking over a 3-6 program in 1995. This year, he'll attempt to forge a more balanced attack, led by senior QB Michael Keebaugh (909 passing yards, 6 TDs) and senior RB Lamar Delt (282 rushing yards). The defense will be built around a pair of all-conference performers: senior cornerback Eric Davidson and senior inside linebacker Chuck Osborn.

#### **16. BETHANY (KAN.) Swedes**

**Overview:** In his 22 years at Bethany, coach Ted Kessinger has compiled an impressive 179-41-1 record. This year, he must have his team ready from the get-go because their first game is Sept. 19 at powerful Ottawa (Kan.). Sophomore QB Zac Burton (1,153 yards passing in six games) is back to run the show behind a strong offensive line, anchored by seniors Chris Hattabaugh (6-3, 280) and Thayne Poole (5-11, 275). A veteran defense features proven seniors Christian Clark, Marco Rafalovich and Brad Schrader.

#### **17. DICKINSON STATE (N.D.) Blue Hawks**

**Overview:** Eight starters return on offense for the Black Hawks (6-3), including a bonafide All-America candidate in senior tailback Malachi Nelson (1,121 yards, 5 TDs). Strong-armed junior quarterback Troy Gleave is back, but he must be more careful with the football this fall (3 TD passes, 11 INTs). Although only four starters are back on defense, junior cornerback Derrick Ystaas (4 INTs) and junior linebacker Tony Biesiot (53 tackles) are top-shelf returnees.

#### **18. McKENDREE (ILL.) Bearcats**

**Overview:** With 15 starters back from an 8-2 NAIA playoff qualifier, McKendree believes the winning will continue this fall, despite the Bearcats' move into the difficult Mid-States Football Association's Mideast League. McKendree should possess a potent ground game, thanks to the return of senior tailback Louis Harden (1,149 yards, 14 TDs). Other notable returnees include sophomore All-American kick returner Brandon Murphy, junior tight end Brett Gross, junior linebacker Mike Garavalia and junior defensive back Rory O'Connell.

#### **19. WESTERN OREGON Wolves**

**Overview:** A massive overhaul is needed on defense, but this is still a quality team that will battle for an NAIA playoff spot in the always powerful Columbia Football Association. The offense will be built around senior wideout Chris Doran (725 yards, 7 TDs), sophomore back Jacob Espisah (607 yards rushing) and linemen Gabe Reece (6-5, 280), Brian Crawford (6-7, 290) and Chris Kribs (6-0, 315). While the defense needs work (seven of 11 starters are gone), the special teams

will be special indeed thanks to the presence of sophomore kicker John Freeman (16-22 FGs) and sophomore punter Chris Bentley (40.2 avg.).

#### **20. PERU STATE (NEB.) Bobcats**

**Overview:** Dick Stripmutter's club returns 13 starters from last season's 6-4 squad. If Stripmutter can find a starting quarterback, the Bobcats could be improved in 1998, because the new QB will have a pair of sure-handed targets to throw to in Todd Liberty and Zach Sangster. Peru State should also be strong in the trenches, thanks to the return of All-American left guard Luc McGhee (6-2, 265) and proven defensive linemen Justin Thomalla and Anthony Carlson.

#### **21. OLIVET NAZARENE (ILL.) Tigers**

**Overview:** The Tigers were a school-best 8-3 under Mike Conway, now entering his third season at the helm of his alma mater. The name of the game at Olivet will be offense as the team returns its record-setting senior quarterback Brad Odgers (2,550 yards, 30 TD passes last season), junior fullback Hollist Brown (1,015 yards rushing, 14 TDs), senior wide receiver Jeff Knight (61 receptions, 938 yards) and sophomore wideout Ardel Buchanan (30 catches, 715 yards).

#### **22. MID-AMERICA NAZARENE (KAN.) Pioneers**

**Overview:** Mike Redwine's squad returns 12 starters (5 on offense, 7 on defense) from last year's 7-4 squad. The rebuilt offense will be paced by junior offensive tackle Brian Jahn (6-5, 290) and a pair of proven seniors in fullback Tom Glenn and wide receiver Tim Offutt. Under center, Redwine must choose between sophomore Jeremy Males and highly touted freshman Josh Brewer. The defense will be built around its string forward wall, led by seniors Dez DeLatorre and Duane Close.

#### **23. TRI-STATE (IND.) Thunder**

**Overview:** Entering its third season of football, Tri-State (4-6 in 1997) is ready to make a quantum leap forward. Five of the Thunder's six losses came against Top 25 teams a year ago. Second-team All-American running back Barron Chambers, the sixth leading rusher in NAIA ball last season (128.3 ypg), is back, as is the entire offensive line and QB Nick Wellman (2,014 yards passing, 11 TDs). The defense returns a seasoned pair of all-conference performers in senior defensive end James Barton (60 tackles) and senior free safety Gerald Denson (73 tackles).

#### **24. SOUTHERN OREGON Raiders**

**Overview:** Southern Oregon features the explosive one-two running tandem of junior Griff Yates and senior Casey Jackson. Jackson, an all-conference runner in 1996, entered the 1997 season as the starter but was sidelined with an early-season injury. In stepped Yates, who tallied the fourth highest per game rushing average in college football history (190.33 ypg) and scored 20 TDs. Southern's other strength will be its veteran defense (eight returning starters), led by senior defensive tackle Gerald Breymann.

#### **25. MALONE (OHIO) Pioneers**

**Overview:** The Pioneers welcome back 19 starters from last season's 5-5 club. The defense should be solid, thanks to the return of junior linebacker Christian Silveria (team-best 106 tackles, 3 INTs) and sophomore defensive tackle Matt Wolford. Junior quarterback Brian Magrell transferred to Malone after spending time at both Akron and Kent State. He has two proven weapons: senior wide receiver Mario Costantino (464 receiving yards in '97) and senior tailback Ali Dixon (730 yards rushing, 7 TDs).



## By Bill Doherty

**D**ixie (Utah) College coach Greg Croshaw compares coaching at the junior college level to the life of Bill Murray's character in the comedy "Groundhog Day." It's an apt comparison because in the film, Murray awoke each day to see the same things occur over and over.

"I've been doing this for 16 years and it's just like that movie in a sense that you wake up at the end of every season and it's always the same," said Croshaw. "More than half your team is gone and you have to reload with talent each and every year. And it seems like the same schools do the best job of reloading year after year."

Things aren't much different in 1998, which means the usual list of suspects—including Croshaw's Dixie squad along with perennial JUCO heavyweights Garden City (Kan.), Trinity Valley (Texas), Ricks (Idaho), Hinds (Miss.) and someone from the powerful Mission Football Conference in California (most likely Mt. San Jacinto or El Camino)—should vie for pole position in the JUCO polls.

### 1. DIXIE (UTAH) Rebels

**Overview:** Once again, Dixie College (11-1 in 1997) will be a force in the JUCO ranks. All-America candidate Eric Lockhart, a one-time University of Tennessee signee, returns at tailback after rushing for over 1,200 yards last season. Joining him in the backfield will be fullback George Gordon Jr. (6-0, 240) and a pair of 6-foot-2 quarterbacks who return to Dixie after performing Mormon missions, Clint Carlson and Carter Miller. The Rebels' defense welcomes back strong safety Tony Jones and cornerback James Wells. The defense also adds two Pac-10 transfers in tackle Darce Afuvai from Oregon and cornerback Matt Wells (James' brother) from Washington.

### 2. GARDEN CITY (KAN.) Bronc Busters

**Overview:** JUCO Player of the Year Frank Murphy has gone to Kansas State, but the running back tradition at GCCC in the 1990s (i.e., current NFLers Corey Dillon and Kevin Bouie) will continue with freshman Adam Tate. He'll team with highly touted freshman quarterback Jackie Jayes and one of the nation's best tight ends, Amos Alstrom (6-5, 240), in a potent offensive package. The defense is loaded with six starters back, including All-American candidates in safety Hamin Milligan and defensive end Cliff Holloman (6-3, 265).

### 3. TRINITY VALLEY (TEXAS) Cardinals

**Overview:** Scottie Conley's Cardinals finished last season with a perfect 12-0 record and the No. 1 ranking in the final NJCAA poll. Graduation losses were heavy, but Conley figures to be in good hands offensively. Returning is sophomore all-purpose whiz Terrance Burnett (857 yards passing, 11 TD passes, 718 yards rushing, 10 rushing TDs). The offensive line will be anchored by center Chad Smith. Linebacker Todd Miller (team-high 110 tackles) and defensive end Rod Kelly will spearhead the Cardinals' defense.

### 4. HINDS (MISS.) Eagles

**Overview:** Last season the Eagles were 10-2 and finished fifth in the final NJCAA poll. Expect the winning to continue as coach Taylor Morton welcomes back two proven playmakers in quarterback Fred Ishman and tailback Terrance Williams. Last year, Ishman played some quarterback, some wideout and returned punts and kicks. Williams rushed for over 1,500 yards in Hinds' one-back set. He'll make hay running behind large tackle Kenyatta Woulard (6-4, 285).

The defense features a future NFL prospect in corner Fred Smoot.

### 5. MT. SAN JACINTO (CALIF.) Eagles

**Overview:** The Eagles finished 12-0 and, according to JC Gridwire, were the nation's No. 1 team. Thirty-two players are gone, including an astounding 20 to D-I schools, but Mt. San Jacinto should still be one of the best teams on the Left Coast. Three-fifths of the offensive line—right tackle Tyler Johnson, right guard David Carlson and sure-handed tight end Matt Edwards—are back to open holes for new tailback Ed Linscombe, who recently clocked a 10.2 in the 100 meters for the Eagles' track team. Defensive leaders will be 6-5, 310-pound All-America candidate James Rose and corners Brian Johnson and Jarod Smith.

### 6. RICKS (IDAHO) COLLEGE Vikings

**Overview:** Last season, Ron Haun's Vikes finished 11-1 and No. 3 in the final NJCAA poll. Record-setting quarterback Greg Robertson (Idaho) and all-purpose whiz Nathan Rydaldch (UNLV) are gone, but the Vikings recruited four highly regarded quarterbacks (Luke Furniss, Robbie Haass, Ryan Harris and Dallas Stevens). The defense will be led by sophomore end Anton Palepoi (8 sacks). The special teams should be the nation's best, thanks to the return of All-American kicker Ben Davis (who hit an unofficial JUCO record 62-yard field goal in 1997) and All-American punter Golden Whetman.

### 7. IOWA CENTRAL COLLEGE Tritons

**Overview:** Coach Kevin Twait's club excelled on the field (7-2, Pepsi Bowl win) and in the classroom (2.84 team GPA) last year. His defense returns nine, featuring two major D-I defensive linemen in John Paricka (6-3, 285) and Andy Josephson (6-3, 270), a 3.8 student who has already received scholarship offers from Northwestern, West Virginia, Baylor, Kansas and Wake Forest. Two other outstanding defenders will be linebacker Hamilton Wells (6-0, 225) and all-region cornerback Tyree Kellogg (6-0, 175). The Triton's most accomplished offensive player is lineman Josh Haynes (6-5, 285).

### 8. EL CAMINO (CALIF.) Warriors

**Overview:** For a change, defense will be the name of the game at El Camino where seven future Division I players will start, including ends

## ALL-JUCO TEAM

### OFFENSE

Pos	Player	College	Ht/Wt	Yr
QB	Sean Stein	L. Beach (Calif.)	City 6-3/215	So.
RB	Delvon Flowers	El Camino (Calif.)	6-2/195	So.
RB	Eric Lockhart	Dixie (Utah)	6-1/230	So.
RB	T. Williams	Hinds (Miss.)	5-10/180	So.
WR	Jerry Dorsey	City of San Fran.	6-1/180	So.
WR	Larry Shyne	Mt. San Jac. (Calif.)	6-1/175	So.
TE	Amos Alstrom	Garden City (Kan.)	6-5/240	So.
OL	B. McKinney	Lackawanna (Pa.)	6-10/310	So.
OL	James Evans	Nassau (N.Y.)	6-4/275	So.
OL	Jason Jones	Rock Valley (Ill.)	6-3/305	So.
OL	C. Hernandez	Cerritos (Calif.)	6-6/305	So.
OL	Willie Purifoy	Mississippi Delta	6-5/315	So.

### DEFENSE

DL	L. Jackson	El Camino (Calif.)	6-4/250	So.
DL	Darce Afuvai	Dixie (Utah)	6-3/305	So.
DL	Toby Golliday	Miss. Delta	6-2/295	So.
DL	James Rose	Mt. San Jac. (Calif.)	6-5/310	So.
LB	Idris Price	Nassau (N.Y.)	6-1/220	So.
LB	Todd Miller	Trin. Valley (Texas)	6-2/225	So.
LB	Cody Eatmon	Blinn (Texas)	6-1/205	So.
DB	Treyvon Waller	El Camino (Calif.)	6-3/180	So.
DB	Hamin Milligan	Garden City (Kan.)	6-3/190	So.
DB	Aaron Guzman	Rochester (Minn.)	6-4/225	So.
DB	Fred Smoot	Hinds (Miss.)	6-1/170	So.

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	Ben Davis	Ricks (Idaho)	6-2/190	So.
P	G. Whetman	Ricks (Idaho)	6-2/190	So.
RS	Keith Stokes	Georgia Military	5-10/180	So.

## PLAYERS TO WATCH

**Offensive** Player of the Year:

Eric Lockhart, RB, Dixie (Utah)

**Defensive** Player of the Year:

Idris Price, LB, Nassau (N.Y.)

## PRESEASON TOP 25

1. Dixie (Utah)
2. Garden City (Kan.)
3. Trinity Valley (Texas)
4. Hinds (Miss.)
5. Mt. San Jacinto (Calif.)
6. Ricks (Idaho)
7. Iowa Central College
8. El Camino (Calif.)
9. Nassau (N.Y.)
10. City College of San Francisco
11. Blinn (Texas)
12. Mississippi Delta
13. Snow (Utah)
14. Lackawanna (Pa.)
15. Rock Valley (Ill.)
16. Tyler (Texas)
17. Coffeyville (Kan.)
18. Long Beach (Calif.) City College
19. Georgia Military
20. Rochester (Minn.)
21. Palomar (Calif.)
22. Harper (Ill.)
23. Independence (Kan.)
24. Cerritos (Calif.)
25. North Dakota State Coll. of Science



LaDarius Jackson (11 sacks) and DeLawrence Grant, linebacker Tevita Maola (a former BYU player) and cornerback Treyvon Waller. Wide receiver Munjero Jones (45 catches, 11 TDs) is drawing major Pac-10 interest, while everyone is recruiting the 6-2, 195-pound tailback Delvon Flowers (1,170 yards rushing, 13 TDs) including Nebraska, Wisconsin, Arizona State and USC.

#### 9. NASSAU (N.Y.) Lions

**Overview:** Nassau (9-2) made its ninth straight bowl appearance upending Rochester (Minn.) in the Empire State Bowl. With eight starters back on defense, making it a perfect 10 is all but a lock. Leading coach George Powers' defense will be linebacker Idris Price. Price originally signed with Clemson, but now appears headed to Syracuse. Rejoining him will be a pair of future Division I defensive ends in Kendall Daniels (6-3, 240) and Dimitry Bernard (6-3, 245), and stellar cornerback Rob Greene (6-1, 185). The anchor of the offensive line is a big-time Division I prospect in sophomore guard James Evans (6-4, 275). Running behind him will be Iowa State transfer James O'Neal and speedy frosh Dan Jenkins.

#### 10. CITY COLL. OF SAN FRANCISCO Rams

**Overview:** Seventeen players off of last season's 11-1 squad signed with Division I schools, including linebackers James Cotton (Ohio State) and Kevin Brown (Washington State). But returning is sophomore wide receiver Jerry Dorsey (31 catches, 605 yards, 5 TDs), who is a legit All-American candidate, and sophomore cornerback Milo Lewis, who is also attracting major D-I interest. The defense will be an area of strength, thanks to the return of linebacker Curtis Holden, safety Aaron Butler, plus linemen Paul Davidian and Melvin Camarena.

#### 11. BLINN (TEXAS) Buccaneers

**Overview:** Former defensive coordinator Everett Todd takes over as the coach at Blinn. Strong-armed sophomore quarterback Derrick Walker returns, while 5-9 sophomore Will Rogers will be the team's primary back after splitting time with Mike Green (University of Houston signee) last season. The anchor of the offensive line will be center Stacy Pierson (6-2, 300). Greased lightning corner Rod Green (4.35 speed in 40) will be a big-time Division I recruit, as will sophomore outside linebacker Cody Eatmon (6-1, 205).

#### 12. MISSISSIPPI DELTA Trojans

**Overview:** Coming off a 9-2 season and a No. 10 ranking in the final NJCAA polls, the Trojans are one of the nation's elite JUCO programs. A pair of sophomore returnees, defensive tackle Toby Golliday (6-2, 295) and cornerback Eugene Liger (6-0, 190) are already drawing SEC interest. Sophomore quarterback Rob Chapman returns to run the Trojans' option attack. Sophomore fullback John Jones should post imposing numbers running behind jumbo-sized tackle Willie Purifoy (6-5, 315) and tight end Anthony Scott (6-2, 260).

#### 13. SNOW (UTAH) COLLEGE Badgers

**Overview:** The Badgers enter 1998 on quite a roll after an 8-3 season. The strength of Snow's offense will be guard Matt Nighswonger (6-3, 265), tackle Pat Paulsen (6-3, 285) and Fred Prescott (6-3, 300). They'll protect new quarterback, Weber State transfer Josh Heupel. The Badgers' defense features proven performers, led by tackle Mario Fatafehi (6-3, 285), linebackers Spencer Woolsten and Tony Anderson, and corner Torry Thompson.

#### 14. LACKAWANNA (PA.) Fightin' Falcons

**Overview:** Under former St. Louis-Arizona

Cardinals defensive lineman Mark Duda, Lackawanna is a combined 30-13. This year Duda has one of the nation's most sought-after offensive tackles, Bryant McKinney (6-10, 310). The Falcons defense should be stingy, thanks to the return of safeties Michael Crutcher and Shawn Hackett and cornerback Shabib White. All three are D-I prospects, along with speedy linebacker Tylee Flowers (6-3, 220), who runs a 4.45 in the 40.

#### 15. ROCK VALLEY (ILL.) Golden Eagles

**Overview:** If everyone makes the grade academically, coach Ed Gavigan will have 10 starters back on offense and five on defense from a team which ranked No. 15 in the final NJCAA poll. The Golden Eagles generally run a wing-T offense, but Gavigan is toying with switching to an I-formation to take advantage of the special talents of tailback Rashad Harris, who rushed for 628 yards on only 72 carries. Quarterback Tyson LeBlanc weighs only 160 pounds but is a proven winner. The O-line should be top-shelf. A pair of all-conference players, outside linebacker Dante Coleman and strong safety Steve Matzl, are back to lead the defense.

#### 16. TYLER (TEXAS) Apaches

**Overview:** Dale Carr's squad appears to have enough talent to challenge Trinity Valley and Blinn in the tough Texas Junior College Football Conference. Running the team will be sophomore quarterback Kasey Nonette. He'll be rejoined in the backfield by sophomore tailback Dominic Rhodes, a 5-10 waterbug. A veteran forward wall returns, led by Gilberto Matias (6-3, 275) and Corey Crane (6-5, 290) as well as tight end Martin Bilbo (6-2, 240).

#### 17. COFFEYVILLE (KAN.) Red Ravens

**Overview:** Head coach Skip Foster will have a young but talented bunch at Coffeyville. On offense, he returns 6-4, 225-pound wide receiver Eddie Williams, a big-time blue-chip recruit. His defense should be strong thanks to the return of free safety Mike Johnson and the additions of highly touted linebacker Akin Ayodele (a Purdue signee out of high school) and cornerback Travis Fisher (a sub-4.4 man in the 40-yard dash out of Florida).

#### 18. LONG BEACH (CALIF.) CITY Vikings

**Overview:** The quick-strike Vikes (9-2 in 1997) will once again be led by 6-3 quarterback Sean Stein, who averaged nearly 300 yards throwing per game as a freshman. Stein will have four quality guys at receiver in Joel Baker, Kelly Tyre, Kevin Melbrough and Jermaine Strong. Keying the defensive charge will be all-conference linebacker Marcus Steele and quartet of proven cover guys in John Williams, Sherod Moore, Jermaine Hanspard and Nijrell Eason.

#### 19. GEORGIA MILITARY Bulldogs

**Overview:** The Bulldogs (8-4 in '97) have a lot of depth at tailback, where sophomores Jimmy Watkins (6-0, 205), Keith Stokes (5-8, 180) and Mike Christopher (6-1, 190) all return. They'll run behind a solid line, anchored by guard Greg Chapman (6-2, 290) and tight end Dwayne Hammett, a 6-3, 260-pound All-American candidate. Sophomore Troy Williams (60 of 100, 841 yards) and redshirt freshman Caleb Slover will split time at quarterback. The defense returns ultra-quick Johnny Leverette (5-10, 260) and Diko Tinch (6-2, 300) at the tackle spots and true freshman safety Erwin Royal joins returnees Marvin Coney and Kaseem Gaines in a big-play secondary.

#### 20. ROCHESTER (MINN.) Yellow Jackets

**Overview:** Two new Rochester traditions, stingy

run defense and winning (the Yellow Jackets are 27-4 in the past three seasons), should continue in 1998. Five key performers from the nation's top-rated JUCO run defense are back: safety Aaron Guzman, cornerback Brian House, linebackers Travis Wiuff and Kyle Milnes, as well as defensive end James Mages. The 6-4, 225-pound Guzman, a tremendous hitter, is an All-American candidate, while House picked off nine passes last season. The key returnees on offense are quarterback Kevin Hanson, wide receiver Kyle Kirkeby and center Brian LaPlante.

#### 21. PALOMAR (Calif.) Comets

**Overview:** Tom Craft's club finished just 6-5 in 1997, but was one of the best in the West late in the season with four straight wins. That quick finishing kick coincided with the late-season emergence of quarterback Tony Alvarez. If he can hold off Cal State-Northridge transfer Ryan Smith for the starting job, Alvarez figures to post obscene numbers, thanks to the return of bullish fullback Joe Hall (6-2, 270) and proven wideouts Nakoa McElrath and Brandon Marshall. Linebackers Jimmy Malo and Robbie Robinson (a Cal transfer) and cornerback Bishop Miller are candidates for postseason honors.

#### 22. HARPER (ILL.) COLLEGE Hawks

**Overview:** John Eliasik, the winningest active coach in the JUCO ranks (180-101-3), should continue to win in 1998. His defensive line figures to be tough to block, thanks to three returnees, tackle Kendrick McCrary (6-6, 335) and ends Jeff Radomski and Anthony Ragona. The offense features returning wideouts Dennis Crump and David Searcy with tackle Rick Warfel, and new Drake transfer Kyle Hughes at quarterback, Western Kentucky transfer Fred Robinson at tailback, and DuPage transfer Jeremiah Spurling at tackle.

#### 23. INDEPENDENCE (KAN.) Pirates

**Overview:** The Pirates' offense, led by All-American candidates Durance Mitchell and Jamel McQueen, should really score. Mitchell, a bruising fullback, was a 1,000-yard rusher last season, while the versatile McQueen caught 35 balls for 450 yards and rushed for 600 yards. They'll prosper running behind sophomore tackle Wes Bell (6-4, 255). The stalwarts on defense figure to be quick end James Morman (70 tackles, 2 INTs), tackle Marlon Smith (8 sacks) and cornerback Jim Kramer (5 INTs, 11 pass breakups).

#### 24. CERRITOS (CALIF.) Falcons

**Overview:** The Falcons were 5-1 and ranked among the nation's elite until they suffered a gut-wrenching two-point loss to Mt. San Jacinto and collapsed. The team finished 5-5, but the Falcons expect to rebound in 1998. The makings of a dominating offensive line are there, thanks to the return of left tackle Christian Hernandez, right tackle Ray Taupule and center Jesse Chagolla. Wideouts Housh Mandzadeth and Glen Pope are both top-notch. A young defense will be led by defensive ends Adrian Durley and Charles O'Neal.

#### 25. NORTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE Wildcats

**Overview:** If defense does indeed win championships, then the Wildcats (6-3) are a team worth watching this autumn. Seven starters are back from last year's defensive unit, including three future major Division I talents in end Grover Thompson (6-6, 280), free safety Derreck Davidson (6-3, 215) and linebacker Eric Williams (6-3, 245). Thompson, in fact, is receiving heavy Big 10 interest and could find his name on some JUCO All-American lists by season's end.



# Recruiting Report

## Top 20 RECRUITING CLASSES

BY BILL BUCHALTER

### 1. Georgia

**William Witherspoon** Panama City, Fla., Rutherford, 6-2/215, LB  
**Tim Wansley** Buford, Ga., 5-10/175, DB  
**Jasper Sanks** Fork Union, Va., Prep, 6-2/220, RB  
**Terrance Edwards** Sandersville, Ga., Washington Co., 6-2/175, QB/DB

### 2. Michigan

**Justin Fargas** Sherman Oaks, Calif., Notre Dame, 6-1/185, RB  
**David Terrell** Richmond, Va., Huguenot, 6-4/200, WR  
**Drew Henson** Brighton, Mich., 6-4/210, QB  
**Marquis Walker** Syracuse, N.Y., Heninger, 6-3/195, WR  
**Dave Armstrong** Doylestown, Pa., Central Bucks West, 6-3/250, DL

### 3. UCLA

**Sean Phillips** Sugarland, Texas, The Dulles, 6-5/270, DL  
**Rob Thomas** Imperial Valley, Calif., 6-2/225, LB  
**DeShaun Foster** Tustin, Calif., 6-1/205, RB  
**Lovell Houston** Denver, Colo., Jefferson, 6-1/175, DB

### 4. Alabama

**Eric Locke** Murfreesboro, Tenn., 5-9/185, DB/KR  
**Fred Milions** Starkville, Miss., 5-11/180, WR  
**Tyler Watts** Pelham, Ala., 6-3/205, QB  
**Kindall Moorehead** Memphis, Tenn., Melrose, 6-4/284, DL  
**Reggie Myles** Pascagoula, Miss., 6-0/185, DB

### 5. Notre Dame

**Cliff Jefferson** Dallas, Texas, Carter, 5-10/175, DB  
**David Givens** Humble, Texas, 6-0/210, Athlete  
**Carlos Pierre-Antoine** Seattle, Wash., O'Dea, 6-2/244, LB  
**Mike McNair** Santa Ana Calif., Mater Dei, 6-0/229, FB/LB  
**Donald Dykes** Hammond, La., 5-10/181, DB

### 6. Florida State

**Brett Williams** Kissimmee, Fla, Osceola, 6-6/320, OL  
**Rian Cason** College Park, Ga., Woodard Academy, 6-5/295, DL  
**Talman Gardner** New Orleans, La., McDonogh 35, 6-2/195, WR

**Patrick Hughes** Nacadoches, Texas, 6-5/245, TE  
**Chris Hope** Rock Hill, S.C., 6-2/195, DB

### 7. Nebraska

**Jason Lohr** Jenks, Okla., 6-3/275, DL  
**DeAntae Grixby** Omaha, Neb., Benson, 5-8/180, DB  
**Jeremy Slechta** Pappillon LaVista, Neb., 6-5/255, LB  
**Tony Tata** Honolulu, Hawaii, St. Louis, 6-2/230, LB  
**Mike Demps** Fort Worth, Texas, Poly, 5-11/190, RB

### 8. Florida

**Robert Cromartie** Atlanta, Ga., Washington, 5-9/175, DB  
**Mike Pearson** Seffner, Fla., Armwood, 6-7/285, OL  
**John Capel** Brooksville, Fla., Hernando, 5-11/175, RB/WR  
**Ernest Graham** Cape Coral, Fla. Mariner, 5-9/215, RB  
**Robert Gillespie** Hattiesburg, Miss., 5-9/180, RB

### 9. Louisiana State

**Adam McConathy** West Monroe, La., 6-5/226, LB  
**Damien James** Carencro, La., 6-1/190, All-purpose  
**Kendrick Allen** Bogalusa, La., 6-7/270, DL  
**Howard Green** Donaldsonville, La., 6-4/305, DL

### 10. North Carolina

**Julius Peppers** Bailey, N.C., Southern Nash, 6-7/240, DE  
**Luke Huard** Puyallup, Wash., 6-4/200, QB  
**Bryant Malloy** Shelby, N.C., Crest, 6-2/300, OL  
**Bosley Allen** Bradenton, Fla., Southeast, 6-2/180, WR  
**Ryan Sims** Spartanburg, S.C., 6-5/265, DL

### 11. Penn State

**Gus Felder** Berwick, Pa., 6-5/295, DL  
**Shamar Finney** Shelby, N.C., Crest, 6-3/245, LB  
**R.J. Luke** Aurora, Ill., Waubonsie Valley, 6-3/232, TE  
**Matt Senneca** Allentown, Pa., Central Catholic, 6-4/215, QB  
**Tim Falls** Damascus, Md., 6-5/275, DL

### 12. Texas

**Antwan Kirk-Hughes** Waxahachie, Texas, 6-4/297, OL  
**Montrell Flowers** Dallas, Texas, Skyline, 5-10/175, WR  
**Jamal Joyner** Dallas, Texas, Carter, 6-2/183, DB  
**Adam Dunn** New Caney, Texas, 6-5/238, QB  
**Lee Jackson** Longview, Texas, 6-4/190, DB

### 13. Tennessee

**Wil Ofenheuse** Martin, Tenn., Westview, 6-8/290, OL  
**Leonard Scott** Zachary, La., 5-11/165, RB/DB  
**John Henderson** Nashville, Tenn., Pearl-Cohn, 6-7/280, DL

**Bernard Jackson** Louisville, Ky., St. Xavier, 6-4/245, LB

**Joey Mathews** Sevierville Tenn., Sevier Co., 6-2/205, QB

### 14. Miami (Fla.)

**Todd Sievers** Ankeny, Iowa, 6-3/200, Punter  
**Howard Clark** Pennsauken, N.J., 6-2/215, LB  
**Andrew Williams** Tampa, Fla., Hillsborough, 6-3/245, DE  
**Sheven Marshall** Homestead, Fla., South Dade, 6-2/225, LB  
**William Joseph** Miami, Fla., Edison, 6-5/265, DL

### 15. Ohio State

**Derek Ross** Rock Hill, S.C., Northwestern, 6-1/190, LB  
**Steve Bellisari** Boca Raton, Fla., 6-2/210, QB  
**Kenny Peterson** Canton, Ohio, McKinley, 6-4/247, DE  
**Ryan Pickett** Zephyrhills, Fla., 6-3/285, DL

### 16. Mississippi State

**Dicenzo Miller** Weir, Miss., 5-10/185, RB/DB  
**Conner Stephens** Ackerman, Miss., 6-5/235, DL  
**Brandon Butler** New Orleans, La., DeLaSalle, 6-0/202, QB  
**Shawn Byrdson** Longview, Texas, 5-10/165, DB

### 17. Southern Cal

**Jason Thomas** Compton, Calif., Dominguez, 6-4/215, QB  
**Sultan McCollough** Pasadena, Calif., Muir, 5-11/175, RB/DB  
**Carson Palmer** Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., 6-4/200, QB  
**Anthony Daye** Laguna Hills, Calif., 6-4/220, LB  
**Scott Huber** Palos Verdes, Peninsula, 6-4/245, TE/DL

### 18. Michigan State

**Ryan Van Dyke** Marshall, Mich., 6-6/215, QB  
**Josh Thornhill** Lansing, Mich., Eastern, 6-3/240, LB  
**Jimel Cofer** Hollywood, Fla., South Broward, 6-2/195, DB  
**Little-John Flowers** Kalamazoo, Mich., Loy Norrix, 6-0/200, RB

### 19. Colorado

**Jashon Sykes** Gardena, Calif., Serra, 6-3/220, LB  
**Brandon Drumm** Anchorage, Ala., 6-2/205, RB  
**Taylor Barton** Beaverton, Ore., 6-3/205, QB  
**Mark Mariscal** Tallahassee, Fla., Lincoln, 6-2/195, K/P

### 20. Clemson

**Jackie Robinson** Orangeburg, S.C., Wilkinson, 6-1/190, WR  
**Pat Cyrgalis** Kearney, N.J., 6-2/230, FB/LB  
**Gary Byrd** Stone Mountain, Ga., 6-6/320, OL  
**Brady Washburn** Fayetteville, Ark., 6-5/280, OL  
**Joe Don Reames** Seneca, S.C., 6-0/185, QB/All-purpose



# SON OF A GUN

**CHRIS SIMMS INHERITED MORE THAN JUST HIS DAD'S GREAT ARM—HE HAS HIS POISE TOO**

BY BILL BUCHALTER

Last summer Chris Simms had his first big taste of what's to come when he attended the Penn State football camp. A number of high-profile players usually are there, and the Nittany Lions have enjoyed recruiting success through the camp over the last three years.

But Simms is not in awe of big powers or big-time football. As the son of retired New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms, he has grown up exposed to football at the top level for his entire life.

But Simms is more than just another son of a famous quarterback. The 6-foot-4 senior from Ramapo High in Franklin Lakes, N.J., is also one of the top half-dozen quarterback prospects in America, and he's remarkably level-headed and mature for one so young.

Simms told Phil Grosz, editor of *Blue & White Illustrated*, that he's not enamored by schools that just throw the football. He has grown up in a balanced, run-pass attack and likes to play that kind of game. He also made it clear that he cares about his teammates.

"He learned well from his father," Grosz said. "Like his father, he gives credit to everybody around him instead of taking credit for himself."

Simms is one of a strong class of quarterbacks on the eastern seaboard, including C.J. Leak of Charlotte, N.C., and Rod Rutherford of Pittsburgh. He also represents a family football tradition shared by running back Jason Davis of Miami, Fla., Southridge, the third Davis brother to rush for stardom, following Troy (New Orleans Saints) and Darren (Iowa State).



**CHRIS SIMMS, QB**

## Top 25 H.S. Seniors: EAST

NAME	HT/WT	POS	HIGH SCHOOL	THE LOWDOWN
<b>1. Mike Aikens</b>	6-5/285	OL	Buffalo, N.Y., Canisius	Brings defensive mentality to blocking.
<b>2. Reggie Brown</b>	6-3/190	WR	Carrollton, Ga.	25-foot long-jumper as sophomore.
<b>3. Daniel Davis</b>	6-0/208	RB/DB	Stafford, Va., Brooke Point	D-I talent on both sides of ball.
<b>4. Jason Davis</b>	5-8/175	RB	Miami, Fla., Southridge	Even more elusive than brothers Troy and Darren.
<b>5. Darnell Dockett</b>	6-4/265	DL	Burtonsville, Md., Paint Branch	A play wrecker with great speed.
<b>6. Ryan Gillis</b>	6-5/315	OL	Hyattsville, Md., DeMatha Catholic	Dominating player from dominating program.
<b>7. DeAndre Green</b>	6-2/187	WR	Prichard, Ala., Blount	72 catches for 813 yards and 18 TDs tells the tale.
<b>8. Jarritt Green</b>	6-4/220	LB	Hampton, Va.	He's to Hampton's defense what Ronald Curry was to offense.
<b>9. C.J. Leak</b>	6-31/2/195	QB	Charlotte, N.C., Indep.	The total package with 1,728 passing yards, 3.6 GPA.
<b>10. Nick Maddox</b>	5-11/180	RB	Kannapolis, N.C., Brown	Compiled nearly 3,500 yards rushing, receiving and returning.
<b>11. Brian Mance</b>	5-11/180	DB	Maning, S.C.	Heir apparent to Chris Hope as state's most sought-after.
<b>12. DeMarco McNeil</b>	6-3/285	DL	Prichard, Ala., Blount	Three-year all-star in area that produces many of the state's best athletes.
<b>13. Jeffrey Muires</b>	6-2/200	WR/DB	Lilburn, Ga., Parkview	9 TD catches, 12 INTs for state champs.
<b>14. Raheem Orr</b>	6-3/230	LB	Elizabeth, N.J.	48 solo tackles, 5 deflected passes add to his legend.
<b>15. David Payne</b>	6-7/270	DL	Memphis, Tenn., Melrose	Top junior in talent-rich Memphis area.
<b>16. Kyndall Pope</b>	6-2/210	LB	Lake City, Fla., Columbia	Extremely strong, athletic middle backer.
<b>17. Shawn Price</b>	6-3/227	DE	Haddon Heights, N.J.	Reportedly ran 10.6 100 on the track.
<b>18. Jason Rader</b>	6-5/225	TE	St. Albans, W. Va.	The best all-around guy from West Virginia since Randy Moss.
<b>19. Rod Rutherford</b>	6-3/190	QB/DB	Pittsburgh, Pa., Perry	Player of the year in the city league.
<b>20. J.D. Schmidt</b>	6-3/230	LB	Washington, D.C., Gonzaga	All-Metropolitan D.C. selection.
<b>21. Bryan Scott</b>	6-2/205	DB	Buckingham, Pa., Central Bucks East	Big time hitter with five picks.
<b>22. Lito Sheppard</b>	5-10/175	DB	Jacksonville, Fla., Raines	Led team to state title with coverage capabilities.
<b>23. Chris Simms</b>	6-4/205	QB	Franklin Lakes, N.J., Ramapo	He has the name and the game.
<b>24. Mike Waddell</b>	5-11/175	DB	Rockingham, N.C., Richmond Co.	A burner with 8 INTs to his credit.
<b>25. Walter Young</b>	6-5/280	OL	Purvis, Miss.	Big time, 3-sport athlete at his size.



# COOL UNDER PRESSURE

**ELI MANNING HASN'T LET THE BURDEN OF HIS FAMILY'S QB LEGACY SLOW HIM DOWN**

BY BILL BUCHALTER

**T**he legacy of Archie Manning continues this fall. While it's true that middle son Peyton has graduated from Tennessee to the National Football League, youngest son Eli now steps into the limelight as a senior at Isadore Newman High in New Orleans.

There are many similarities between Eli and Peyton, but some critical differences as well. Like Peyton, Eli was an all-district, all-state choice as a junior. Like Peyton, he is a top student and a top passer, throwing for nearly 2,000 yards last year.

But Eli could end up facing more outside pressures than Peyton did, having to face comparisons not just with his father but also his older brother. Still, Manning-watchers believe Eli is up to the task because of both his personality and his passing prowess. When friends talk about the Mannings, they point out that older brother Cooper was the most intense, Peyton the most focused, and Eli the most laid back.

In this instance, laid back is good. His quieter personality has so far contributed to less fanfare surrounding his emergence as a top quarterback prospect than his brother had to endure.

He represents a region here that includes quarterbacks such as Rex Grossman of Bloomington, Ind., South, and Zac Clark of Fayetteville, Ark., and one that also has family football tradition with Fred Pagac Jr., a linebacker from Dublin, Ohio.

But Eli is not the only famous name in this group. Sammy Davis, aka "The Candy Man," is an all-state defensive back from Humble, Texas, who intercepted eight passes last season.



(LEFT TO RIGHT) COOPER, ELI, ARCHIE, OLIVIA AND PEYTON MANNING

## Top 25 H.S. Seniors: MIDWEST

NAME	HT/WT	POS	HIGH SCHOOL	THE LOWDOWN
1. Mark Bokermann	6-6/290	OL	St. Louis, Mo., Jesuit	Super student developed footwork playing volleyball and basketball.
2. Zac Clark	6-2/170	QB	Fayetteville, Ark.	Passed for 2,353 yards and 24 TDs.
3. Devon Davis	6-2/225	LB	Austin, Texas, McCallum	Credited with 125 tackles, 6 forced fumbles.
4. Domenick Davis	5-10/190	DB	Breaux Bridge, La.	Earned 3A all-state honors.
5. Sammy Davis	5-10/180	DB	Humble, Texas	Yes, he's nicknamed The Candy Man.
6. Mike Doss	6-0/200	DB	Canton, Ohio, McKinley	Helped team win state championship.
7. T.J. Duckett	6-3/245	LB	Kalamazoo, Mich., Loy Norrix	Doubles as nationally-ranked shot putter.
8. Reggie Duncan	5-9/200	RB	Killeen, Texas, Ellison	All-state mention with 1,700 rushing yards.
9. Artie Ellis	6-3/190	WR	Spring, Texas, Westfield	Impressive stats read 69 catches for 1,062 yards and 14 TDs.
10. John Garrison	6-6/245	DL	Blue Springs, Mo.	Best returning defender in KC area.
11. Rex Grossman	6-2/190	QB	Bloomington, Ind., South	Led all-state team with 1,900 yards.
12. Cedric Hilliard	6-3/295	DL	Arlington, Texas, Lamar	Defensive player of year in his part of Texas.
13. Kelton Lindsey	6-1/190	RB	Lebanon, Ohio	Rushed for 2,200 yards and 41 TDs.
14. Vancent Lloyd	6-3/275	OL	El Dorado, Ark.	Led state's all-junior team with top blocking percentage.
15. Eli Manning	6-3/185	QB	New Orleans, La., Newman	Yes, he's another Manning with all-state credentials.
16. Trey Mathis	6-5/305	OL	Garland, Texas	Emerging as perhaps state's No. 1 prospect.
17. Richard McNutt	6-0/165	DB	Park Forest, Ill., Rich East	One of four juniors on all-state team.
18. Fred Pagac Jr.	6-2/220	LB	Dublin, Ohio, Coffman	Has all the intangibles.
19. Tony Pape	6-7/270	OL	Hinsdale, Ill., Central	Vies for top returning blocker in Midwest.
20. Cory Redding	6-4/220	DE	Galena Park, Texas, North Shore	All-district standout who played in shadow of all-state brother.
21. Cole Pittman	6-4/280	DL	Shreveport, La., Evangel Christian	Another great prospect from school churning them out in '90s.
22. John Schweighardt	5-11/165	WR	Wheaton, Ill., South	Great hands and runs great routes; 82 catches for 1,450 yards, 17 TDs.
23. Demetrius Solomon	6-7/270	OL	Flint, Mich., Northern	Class AA/A all-stater who can play either side of ball.
24. LaBrandon Toefield	6-2/215	RB	Independence, La.	All-state returnee with nearly 2,400 rushing yards.
25. Kevin Young	6-3/215	DE	Duncanville, Texas	Big-play maker led team to state semifinals.



# HE GOT GAME(S)

FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL PROSPECT CHRIS LEWIS IS KEEPING HIS OPTIONS OPEN

BY BRENTT EADS

He's the top recruit in the West, yet there were times when his sister made him want to give up sports.

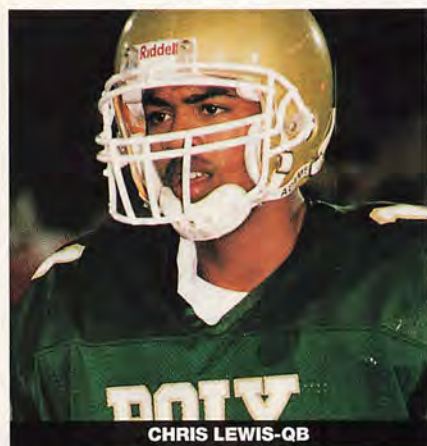
Quarterback Chris Lewis of Long Beach Calif., Poly, led the Jackrabbits to a huge Southern Section Div. I championship win over perennial power Santa Mater Dei last December. It's hard, then, to imagine that this top football and volleyball prospect almost quit athletics several years ago after continual one-on-one basketball poundings by his sister, Robyn, now a freshman volleyball player at Stanford. "I used to stomp in the house really mad," the 6-foot-4, 190-pound senior said. "She always used to beat me. There were times when I just wanted to give it all up, but my Dad would always say, 'One day you'll be able to beat her.'"

Not that losing to his sibling 18 months older was any cause for disgrace. Robyn was rated as one of the top two volleyball setters in her senior year and chose the Cardinal over UCLA, USC, Ohio State and Hawaii. "We would play harder against each other than we would in our own competitive games," said Robyn.

Lewis said he'll try to play both football and volleyball in college next year, and he's already been contacted by the likes of Notre Dame, UCLA, BYU, Washington, Florida, Michigan and yes, Stanford (he has a 3.3 GPA and a 940 SAT, although he's retaken the test to try for a higher score).

But college can wait. The pressing question is, who would win a one-on-one hoops battle today, Chris or Robyn? "I'd win, definitely," she laughed. Chris isn't so sure.

When it comes to family rivalries, some things never change.



CHRIS LEWIS-QB

## Top 25 H.S. Seniors: WEST

NAME	HT/WT	POS	HIGH SCHOOL	THE LOWDOWN
1. Chris Lewis	6-4/190	QB	Long Beach, Calif., Poly	Has it all: size, arm strength, and smarts on perhaps nation's No. 1 team.
2. Josh Shavies	6-6/240	TE	Oakland, Calif., Fremont	Big man who can get downfield in a hurry.
3. Bernard Riley	6-3/305	DL	Los Alamitos, Calif.	Collapses the offensive line into the backfield and runs down ball-carriers.
4. Mike Seidman	6-5/230	TE	Westlake Village, Calif., Westlake	Caught 50 passes for 749 yards.
5. Ken Dorsey	6-4/190	QB	Orinda, Calif., Miramonte	A top pocket passer; threw for 3,451 yards and 40 TDs last year.
6. Solomon Bates	6-3/225	LB	Moreno Valley, Calif., Canyon Springs	Big (size 15 shoe) and athletic, he's a ferocious hitter who runs sideline to sideline.
7. Paul Arnold	6-1/190	RB	Seattle, Wash., Kennedy	Talked about since his freshman year, injuries limited him to 700 yards in only four games last season.
8. Brandon Macias	6-6/340	OL	Los Altos, Calif.	All-State behemoth who's rated by one West school as the top lineman available.
9. Charles Drake	6-1/175	RB	Los Angeles, Calif., Westchester	Explosive speed used to rush for 1,200 yards and 17 scores on a mostly passing team.
10. Bo Scaife	6-4/215	TE/LB	Denver, Colo., Mullen	Two-way standout who's still growing.
11. Nick Johnson	6-8/305	OL	Cottonwood, Ariz., Mings	Second-team All-Arizona pick who moves surprisingly well for a big man.
12. Onterio Smith	5-11/180	RB/DB	Sacramento, Calif., Grant	Rushed for over 2,000 yards last year and 1,100 his sophomore season.
13. Darrell Rideaux	5-9/160	DB	Long Beach, Calif., Poly	Section defensive player of the year after blocking 15 punts.
14. Atari Callen	5-10/180	RB	Concord, Calif., De La Salle	Top senior on team that has a national record 76-game winning streak.
15. Jerry Owens	6-3/180	WR	Newhall, Calif., Hart	Tall with good body control, caught 63 passes for 1,423 yards and 18 TDs.
16. Kareem Kelley	6-2/180	WR	Long Beach, Calif., Poly	Blazing speed (10.49 in the 100 meters) and size make him a deadly target.
17. Lenny Vandermade	6-3/270	OL	Santa Ana, Calif., Mater Dei	Two-time all-state pick; head coach Bruce Rollinson said he could be the best lineman ever to play for the Monarchs.
18. Anthony Aguilar	6-5/300	DL	Superior, Ariz.	Dominant inside force who recorded 19 sacks and forced seven fumbles as a junior.
19. Mike Wagner	5-9/190	RB	La Puente, Calif., Bishop Amat	Rushed for 1,333 yards with 23 TDs in only eight games before suffering a season-ending injury.
20. Tyrone Evans	6-2/230	LB	Stockton, Calif., Lincoln	First team all-state pick was voted the top linebacker in a league that included USC 'backer signee Armond Holland.
21. Aaron Graham	6-1/210	LB	Bakersfield, Calif.	Roams sideline to sideline; totaled 134 tackles including a school record 24 solos.
22. Shane Lehmann	6-5/265	OL	Corona, Calif.	De-cleaver mentality with great lateral movement and agility.
23. Jeremy Williams	6-5/250	DL	Spokane, Wash., Ferris	The Northwest's top lineman, he recorded 47 tackles for loss as a junior.
24. Pisa Tinoisamoa	6-1/195	RB/LB	Vista, Calif.	Rushed for 1,200 yards as a tailback and accounted for 10 sacks on defense.
25. Kawika Sagapolu	6-4/280	OL/DL	Las Vegas, Nev., Cimarron	The top prospect in Nevada, the two way all-conference pick is one of the best run blockers in the West.



# Stats & Stuff

## Final 1997 Stats, Conference Standings, Bowl Results, Polls and 1998 TV Schedule

### Statistical Leaders '97

[+denotes returning player]

#### SCORING

PLAYER, SCHOOL	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PTS/G
1. +R. Williams, Texas	25	2	0	152	13.82
2. S. Hicks, UCLA	25	0	0	150	13.64
2. +T. Prentice, Miami (Ohio)	25	0	0	150	13.64
4. R. Moss, Marshall	25	2	0	152	12.67
5. C. Enis, Penn St.	20	2	0	122	11.09
6. A. Green, Nebraska	22	0	0	132	11.00
7. C. McCoy, Navy	20	0	0	120	10.91
8. T. Banks, Iowa	19	0	0	114	10.36
8. C. Lemon, Nevada	19	0	0	114	10.36
10. E. Baker, Kent	18	2	0	110	10.00

#### ALL-PURPOSE YARDS

PLAYER, SCHOOL	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	YDS	YDS/G
1. +T. Edwards, Louisiana Tech	190	1,707	6	241	2,144	194.91
2. +R. Williams, Texas	1,893	150	0	0	2,043	185.73
3. +K. Faulk, LSU	1,144	93	192	217	1,646	182.89
4. R. Moss, Marshall	2	1,647	266	263	2,178	181.50
5. M. Perry, Rice	1,034	44	26	680	1,784	178.40
6. T. Atwell, Minnesota	77	924	296	776	2,073	172.75
7. J. Pathon, Washington	0	1,245	209	386	1,840	167.27
8. T. Banks, Iowa	1,639	200	0	0	1,839	167.18
9. A. Green, Nebraska	1,877	105	0	0	1,982	165.17
10. +S. Irvin, Michigan St.	1,211	339	263	0	1,813	164.82

#### TOTAL OFFENSE

PLAYER, SCHOOL	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/G
1. +T. Rattay, Louisiana Tech	541	3,968	360.73
2. +T. Couch, Kentucky	613	3,759	341.73
3. R. Leaf, Washington St.	447	3,583	325.73
4. +D. Culpepper, Central Florida	517	3,524	320.36
5. J. Dutton, Nevada	411	3,522	320.18
6. P. Manning, Tennessee	526	3,789	315.75
7. C. Batch, Eastern Mich.	519	3,390	308.18
8. T. Busby, Florida St.	447	3,301	300.09
9. +J. Davis, Kent	415	2,883	288.30
10. +J. Denton, UNLV	438	2,591	287.89

#### PASSING EFFICIENCY

PLAYER, SCHOOL	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	RATING
1. +C. McNow, UCLA	283	173	2,877	22	168.6
2. R. Leaf, Washington St.	375	210	3,637	33	161.2
3. +J. Germaine, Ohio St.	184	119	1,674	15	160.4
4. J. Dutton, Nevada	367	225	3,526	20	156.7
5. +B. Huard, Washington	244	146	2,140	23	156.4
6. M. Bobo, Georgia	306	199	2,751	19	155.8
7. +D. McNabb, Syracuse	265	145	2,488	20	154.0
8. G. Leigh, New Mexico	276	166	2,318	24	153.6
9. M. Moreno, Colorado St.	257	157	2,257	20	153.5
10. +C. Pennington, Marshall	428	253	3,480	39	151.9

#### RUSHING

PLAYER, SCHOOL	CARRIES	YDS	AVG	YDS/G
1. +R. Williams, Texas	279	1,893	6.8	172.09
2. A. Green, Nebraska	278	1,877	6.8	156.42
3. +A. Zereoue, West Virginia	264	1,505	5.7	150.50
4. T. Banks, Iowa	246	1,639	6.7	149.00
5. +R. Dayne, Wisconsin	249	1,421	5.7	142.10
6. T. Prentice, Miami (Ohio)	296	1,549	5.2	140.82
7. D. Harris, Toledo	254	1,278	5.0	127.80

8. +K. Faulk, LSU	205	1,144	5.6	127.11
9. +D. Parker, Oklahoma	194	1,143	5.9	127.00
10. C. McCoy, Navy	246	1,370	5.6	124.55

#### RECEIVING (CATCHES)

PLAYER, SCHOOL	G	REC	YDS	REC/G
1. +E. Baker, Kent	11	103	1,549	9.36
2. +T. Edwards, Louisiana Tech	11	102	1,707	9.27
3. +T. Walters, Stanford	11	86	1,206	7.82
3. +G. Noisy, Nevada	11	86	1,184	7.82
5. R. Moss, Marshall	12	90	1,647	7.50
6. S. Burley, Central Florida	11	77	1,106	7.00
6. +A. Wilson, Idaho	11	77	910	7.00
8. B. Shaw, California	11	75	1,093	6.82
9. N. Jenkins, Utah St.	11	73	1,086	6.64
9. +C. Yeast, Kentucky	11	73	873	6.64
11. +D. Clark, Wake Forest	11	72	950	6.55

#### RECEIVING YARDS PER GAME

PLAYER, SCHOOL	G	REC	YDS	YDS/G
1. T. Edwards, Louisiana Tech	11	102	1,707	155.18
2. +E. Baker, Kent	11	103	1,549	140.82
3. R. Moss, Marshall	12	90	1,647	137.25
4. J. Pathon, Washington	11	69	1,245	113.18
5. +T. Walters, Stanford	11	86	1,206	109.64
6. +G. Noisy, Nevada	11	86	1,184	107.64
7. B. Alford, Purdue	11	59	1,176	106.09
8. +T. Insley, Nevada	11	59	1,111	104.64
9. +P. Volz, New Mexico	12	69	1,129	102.42
10. +S. Burley, Central Florida	11	77	1,106	100.55

#### INTERCEPTIONS

PLAYER, SCHOOL	G	NO	YDS	TD	IPG
1. B. Lee, Wyoming	11	8	103	1	.73
2. C. Donaldson, LSU	11	7	192	2	.64
2. J. Noel, Louisiana Tech	11	7	93	0	.64
2. +C. Smith, San Jose St.	11	7	80	0	.64
2. T. Jones, Ohio	11	7	36	0	.64
2. S. Rolle, Florida St.	11	7	32	0	.64
2. C. Woodson, Michigan	11	7	7	0	.64
8. D. Darius, Syracuse	12	7	56	0	.58
9. +P. Jackson, Maryland	9	5	14	0	.56
10. +P. Surtain, Southern	11	6	127	0	.55

#### FIELD GOALS

PLAYER, SCHOOL	FGA	FG	PCT	FG/G
1. B. Palazzo, Tulane	28	23	.821	2.09
2. C. Cason, New Mexico	30	21	.700	1.75
3. +M. Gramatica, Kansas St.	20	19	.950	1.73
3. S. Graham, Virginia Tech	23	19	.826	1.73
3. +C. Sailer, UCLA	24	19	.792	1.73
6. B. Gowins, Northwestern	27	20	.741	1.67
7. K. Brown, Nebraska	21	18	.857	1.50
7. +K. Bryant, Texas A&M	22	18	.818	1.50
9. +S. Lenhardt, Duke	20	16	.800	1.45
9. +S. Janikowski, Florida St.	21	16	.762	1.45

#### PUNTING

PLAYER, SCHOOL	NO	AVG
1. C. Kessler, LSU	39	50.28
2. J. Baker, North Texas	62	47.18
3. S. Lechler, Texas A&M	56	46.98
4. +B. Hill, Tulane	42	46.19
5. +C. Shrout, Hawaii	68	46.07
6. +R. Williams, Georgia Tech	47	45.64



7. +J. Walker, Mississippi St.	45	45.53
8. A. Langley, Wyoming	79	45.16
9. +B. Bartholomew, Ohio St.	65	45.14
10. J. Kibble, Virginia Tech	50	45.10

## PUNT RETURNS

PLAYER, SCHOOL	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
1. T. Dwight, Iowa	19	367	3	19.32
2. R.W. McQuarters, Oklahoma St.	32	521	1	16.28
3. +S. Smith, Utah St.	22	344	2	15.64
4. N. Washington, Miami (Ohio)	12	185	0	15.42
5. G. Turner, Colorado St.	20	304	1	15.20
6. +D. Feaster, Florida St.	14	210	0	15.00
7. +Q. Spotwood, Syracuse	31	463	4	14.94
8. +T. Keck, Cincinnati	39	575	4	14.74
9. +S. Neal, W. Michigan	14	204	1	14.57
10. J. Green, Florida	27	392	2	14.52

## KICKOFF RETURNS

PLAYER, SCHOOL	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
1. E. Booth, Southern Miss	22	766	2	34.82
2. +B. Kelly, Colorado	25	777	1	31.08
3. P. McGrew, Navy	15	441	0	29.40
4. B. Williams, South Carolina	18	527	2	29.28
5. P. Johnson, Oregon	16	462	0	28.88
6. A. Rossum, Notre Dame	20	570	2	28.50
7. +K. Sanford, Houston	19	530	0	27.89
8. T. Horne, Clemson	18	491	0	27.28
9. D. Dunn, Stanford	21	566	0	26.95
10. +T. Carter, Minnesota	17	455	0	26.76

## Final Conference Standings

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Florida St.	8	0	347	128	10	1	437
North Carolina	7	1	224	110	10	1	306
Virginia	5	3	200	187	7	4	277
Georgia Tech	5	3	200	208	6	5	279
Clemson	4	4	166	158	7	4	275
North Carolina St.	3	5	215	199	6	5	325
Wake Forest	3	5	166	229	5	6	245
Maryland	1	7	109	282	2	9	161
Duke	0	8	157	283	2	9	223

## BIG EAST

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Syracuse	6	1	238	104	9	3	423
Virginia Tech	5	2	197	127	7	4	321
West Virginia	4	3	219	167	7	4	330
Pittsburgh	4	3	208	197	6	5	326
Miami (Fl.)	3	4	215	191	5	6	314
Boston College	3	4	173	176	4	7	237
Temple	3	4	150	212	3	8	212
Rutgers	0	7	121	347	0	11	191

## BIG TEN

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Michigan	8	0	215	78	11	0	301
Ohio St.	6	2	253	86	10	2	380
Penn St.	6	2	217	185	9	2	360
Purdue	6	2	285	180	8	3	363
Wisconsin	5	3	165	195	8	4	285
Iowa	4	4	221	106	7	4	404
Michigan State	4	4	203	148	7	4	319
Northwestern	3	5	141	201	5	7	243
Minnesota	1	7	119	226	3	9	238
Indiana	1	7	74	281	2	9	120
Illinois	0	8	76	283	0	11	119

## BIG 12

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Nebraska	9	0	441	145	12	0	565
Kansas St.	7	1	255	132	10	1	383
Missouri	5	3	272	256	7	4	368
Colorado	3	5	246	228	5	6	300
Kansas	3	5	129	235	5	6	177
Iowa St.	1	7	155	321	1	10	214
SOUTH							
Texas A&M	6	3	261	191	9	3	422

Oklahoma St.	5	3	228	186	8	3	332
Texas Tech	5	3	142	121	6	5	245
Texas	2	6	194	255	4	7	283
Oklahoma	2	6	125	267	4	8	232
Baylor	1	7	146	257	2	9	200

## BIG WEST

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Utah St.	4	1	211	114	6	5	370
Nevada	4	1	227	137	5	6	353
Boise St.	3	2	161	127	4	7	285
Idaho	2	3	128	170	5	6	302
North Texas	2	3	118	175	4	7	232
New Mexico St.	0	5	74	196	2	9	221

## C-USA

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Southern Miss	6	0	198	85	8	3	296
Tulane	5	1	211	124	7	4	375
East Carolina	4	2	148	131	5	6	214
Cincinnati	2	4	127	136	7	4	286
Memphis	2	4	104	143	4	7	218
Houston	2	4	117	189	3	8	216
Louisville	0	6	139	236	1	10	245

## MAC

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Marshall	8	1	339	151	10	2	453
Miami (Ohio)	6	2	319	161	8	3	412
Ohio	6	2	210	140	8	3	301
Bowling Green	3	5	155	209	3	8	191
Kent	3	5	242	325	3	8	337
Akron	2	7	204	320	2	9	218

## WEST

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Toledo	7	2	272	199	9	3	356
W. Michigan	6	2	225	190	8	3	301
Ball St.	4	4	195	193	5	6	239
E. Michigan	4	5	295	281	4	7	329
C. Michigan	1	7	204	315	2	9	282
N. Illinois	0	8	101	277	0	11	129

## PAC-10

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Washington St.	7	1	297	246	10	1	467
UCLA	7	1	292	181	9	2	448
Arizona St.	6	2	233	168	8	3	307
Washington	5	3	277	186	7	4	369
Arizona	4	4	222	232	6	5	297
USC	4	4	171	181	6	5	233
Oregon	3	5	241	264	6	5	339
Stanford	3	5	198	262	5	6	276
California	1	7	186	259	3	8	295
Oregon St.	0	8	112	250	3	8	195

## SEC

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Tennessee	8	1	285	183	11	1	411
Florida	6	2	274	158	9	2	409
Georgia	6	2	240	155	9	2	347
South Carolina	3	5	178	201	5	6	258
Kentucky	2	6	212	317	5	6	348
Vanderbilt	0	8	52	169	3	8	138

## WEST

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
LSU	6	2	229	152	8	3	346
Auburn	6	3	201	189	9	3	319
Mississippi	4	4	145	147	7	4	233
Mississippi St.	4	4	154	167	7	4	226
Alabama	2	6	157	192	4	7	246
Arkansas	2	6	127	224	4	7	181

## WAC

CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PA
Colorado St.	8	1	341	111	10	2	442
Air Force	6	2	201	129	10	2	266
Fresno St.	5	3	208	166	6	6	318
Wyoming	4	4	175	130	7	6	322
San Diego St.	4	4	171	199	5	7	257
San Jose St.	4	4	191	277	4	7	225



UNLV	2	6	205	260	3	8	281	332
Hawaii	1	7	96	238	3	9	189	308
<b>MOUNTAIN</b>								
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
New Mexico	6	3	271	198	9	3	390	254
Rice	5	3	205	189	7	4	306	285
SMU	5	3	185	159	6	5	247	237
Utah	5	3	199	127	6	5	253	200
BYU	4	4	175	167	6	5	250	254
UTEP	3	5	128	201	4	7	162	311
Tulsa	2	6	197	296	2	9	258	426
TCU	1	7	136	237	1	10	172	325

## INDY]

OVERALL								
TEAM	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Louisiana Tech	9	2	364	281				
Navy	7	4	398	209				
Notre Dame	7	5	273	238				
Ala.-Birmingham	5	6	222	238				
Central Florida	5	6	374	303				
NE Louisiana	5	7	226	319				
Army	4	7	221	311				
Arkansas St.	2	9	200	394				
SW Louisiana	1	10	176	553				

## BOWL RESULTS]

BOWL	DATE	RESULT	PAYOUT
Las Vegas	Dec. 20	Oregon 41, Air Force 13	\$800,000
Aloha	Dec. 25	Washington 51, Michigan State 23	\$750,000
Motor City	Dec. 26	Mississippi 34, Marshall 31	\$750,000
Heritage	Dec. 27	Southern 34, South Carolina St. 28	—
Insight.com	Dec. 27	Arizona 20, New Mexico 14	\$750,000
Independence	Dec. 28	LSU 27, Notre Dame 9	\$800,000
Humanitarian	Dec. 29	Cincinnati 35, Utah State 19	\$750,000
CarQuest	Dec. 29	Georgia Tech 35, West Virginia 30	\$750,000
Holiday	Dec. 29	Colorado St. 35, Missouri 24	\$1.35 million
Alamo	Dec. 30	Purdue 33, Oklahoma State 20	\$1 million
Sun	Dec. 31	Arizona St. 17, Iowa 7	\$1 million
Liberty	Dec. 31	Southern Miss 41, Pittsburgh 7	\$800,000
Fiesta	Dec. 31	Kansas State 35, Syracuse 18	\$8.225 million
Outback	Jan. 1	Georgia 33, Wisconsin 6	\$1.65 million
Gator	Jan. 1	North Carolina 42, Virginia Tech 3	\$1.3 million
Florida Citrus	Jan. 1	Florida 21, Penn State 6	\$3.5 million
Cotton	Jan. 1	UCLA 29, Texas A&M 23	\$2.5 million
Rose	Jan. 1	Michigan 21, Washington St. 16	\$9.5 million
Sugar	Jan. 1	Florida St. 31, Ohio St. 14	\$8.225 million
Orange	Jan. 2	Nebraska 42, Tennessee 17	\$8.475 million
Peach	Jan. 2	Auburn 21, Clemson 17	\$1.5 million

## FINAL 1997 COLLEGE FOOTBALL POLLS]

First-place votes in parenthesis

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEAM	REC	PTS
1. Michigan (51.5)	12-0	1,731.5
2. Nebraska (18.5)	13-0	1,698.5
3. Florida St.	11-1	1,599
4. Florida	10-2	1,455
5. UCLA	10-2	1,413
6. North Carolina	11-1	1,397
7. Tennessee	11-2	1,320
8. Kansas St.	11-1	1,302
9. Washington St.	10-2	1,259
10. Georgia	10-2	1,121
11. Auburn	10-3	1,025
12. Ohio St.	10-3	975
13. LSU	9-3	856
14. Arizona St.	9-3	773
15. Purdue	9-3	715
16. Penn St.	9-3	706
17. Colorado St.	11-2	673
18. Washington	8-4	617
19. Southern Miss	9-3	490
20. Texas A&M	9-4	421
21. Syracuse	9-4	331
22. Mississippi	8-4	255
23. Missouri	7-5	175
24. Oklahoma St.	8-4	72
25. Georgia Tech	7-5	64

Others Receiving Votes: Arizona 59, Oregon 50, Air Force 37, Marshall 33, Virginia 31, Clemson 27, Louisiana Tech 20, Mississippi St. 15, Michigan St. 9, Wisconsin 8, New Mexico 6, Cincinnati 5, Notre Dame 3, Iowa 2, Virginia Tech 1

### USA TODAY/ESPN

TEAM	REC	PTS
1. Nebraska (32)	13-0	1,520
2. Michigan (30)	12-0	1,516
3. Florida St.	11-1	1,414
4. North Carolina	11-1	1,292
5. UCLA	10-2	1,239
6. Florida	10-2	1,209
7. Kansas St.	11-1	1,192
8. Tennessee	11-2	1,122
9. Washington St.	10-2	1,076
10. Georgia	10-2	1,007
11. Auburn	10-3	854
12. Ohio St.	10-3	826
13. LSU	9-3	786
14. Arizona St.	9-3	667
15. Purdue	9-3	666
16. Colorado St.	11-2	646
17. Penn St.	9-3	585
18. Washington	8-4	512
19. Southern Miss	9-3	462
20. Syracuse	9-4	380
21. Texas A&M	9-4	359
22. Mississippi	8-4	188
23. Missouri	7-5	114
24. Oklahoma St.	8-4	103
25. Air Force	10-3	74

Others Receiving Votes: Clemson 58, Georgia Tech 55, Iowa 32, Louisiana Tech 31, Oregon 25, Cincinnati 24, Arizona 23, Mississippi St. 20, Michigan St. 16, New Mexico 13, Wisconsin 13, Tulane 10, Virginia 9, West Virginia 7, Marshall 4, Notre Dame 1

## TELEVISION SCHEDULE]

### ABC

AUG. 29	Pigskin Classic: Purdue @ USC, 2
AUG. 30	Kickoff Classic: Texas A&M @ Florida St., 8
SEPT. 5	Southern Miss @ Penn St., 3:30 p.m.
	Michigan St. @ Oregon, 3:30
	Boston College @ Georgia Tech, 3:30
SEPT. 12	Syracuse @ Michigan, 3:30
	Texas @ UCLA, 3:30
	Florida St. @ N.C. State, 3:30
	Notre Dame @ Michigan St., 8
SEPT. 19	Missouri @ Ohio St., 3:30
	BYU @ Washington, 3:30
	Duke @ Florida St., 3:30
	Texas @ Kansas St., 3:30
SEPT. 26	Michigan St. @ Michigan, 12
	Wake Forest @ Clemson, 12
	USC @ Florida St., 3:30
	Washington @ Nebraska, 3:30
OCT. 3	Penn St. @ Ohio St., 12
	Michigan @ Iowa, 3:30
	Washington St. @ Iowa, 3:30
	Georgia Tech @ Clemson, 3:30
	Colorado @ Oklahoma, 3:30
	Arizona St. @ USC, 7
OCT. 10	Ohio St. @ Illinois, 3:30
	Notre Dame @ Arizona St., 3:30
	Georgia Tech @ N.C. State, 3:30
	Texas @ Oklahoma, 3:30
OCT. 17	Purdue @ Penn St., 3:30
	USC @ Washington St., 3:30
	Clemson @ Florida St., 3:30
	Oklahoma St. @ Kansas St., 3:30
OCT. 24	Ohio St. @ Northwestern, 3:30
	UCLA @ California, 3:30
	N.C. State @ Virginia, 3:30
	Missouri @ Nebraska, 3:30
OCT. 31	Northwestern @ Michigan St., 3:30
	Washington @ USC, 3:30
	N.C. State @ Clemson, 3:30
	Texas @ Nebraska, 3:30
NOV. 7	Penn St. @ Michigan, 12
	Michigan St. @ Ohio St., 3:30
	UCLA @ Oregon St., 3:30
	Virginia @ Florida St., 3:30
	Oklahoma St. @ Texas, 3:30
	USC @ Stanford, 7
NOV. 14	Ohio St. @ Iowa, 3:30
	UCLA @ Washington, 3:30
	North Carolina @ Virginia, 3:30
	Nebraska @ Kansas St., 3:30
NOV. 21	Michigan @ Ohio St., 12
	Penn St. @ Wisconsin, 3:30
	USC @ UCLA, 3:30
	Florida @ Florida St., 3:30
	Texas Tech @ Oklahoma, 3:30
NOV. 28	Texas A&M @ Texas, 11 a.m.
	Colorado @ Nebraska, 2:30
NOV. 28	Michigan St. @ Penn St., 1
	N.C. St. @ North Carolina
	Notre Dame @ USC, 8
DEC. 5	WAC Championship, 1
	Big 12 Championship, 4:30
	SEC Championship, 8
NBC	
SEPT. 5	Michigan @ Notre Dame, 2:30
SEPT. 26	Purdue @ Notre Dame, 2:30
OCT. 3	Stanford @ Notre Dame, 2:30
OCT. 24	Army @ Notre Dame, 2:30
OCT. 31	Baylor @ Notre Dame, 12:30
NOV. 21	LSU @ Notre Dame, 1:30
CBS	
SEPT. 19	Florida @ Tennessee
SEPT. 26	UCLA @ Miami (Fla.)
OCT. 3	Florida @ Alabama
OCT. 10	Florida St. @ Miami (Fla.)
	Tennessee @ Georgia
OCT. 17	Auburn @ Florida
OCT. 24	Alabama @ Tennessee
OCT. 31	Florida @ Georgia
NOV. 7	Notre Dame @ Boston College
	Alabama @ LSU
NOV. 14	Notre Dame @ Navy
NOV. 21	LSU @ Notre Dame
DEC. 4	Army @ Navy

### ESPN

SEPT. 3	Virginia @ Auburn, 8
	Arizona @ Hawaii, 8
SEPT. 5	Tennessee @ Syracuse, 12
	BYU @ Alabama, 7
	Colorado @ Colorado State, 10
SEPT. 10	Navy @ Wake Forest, 8
SEPT. 12	Rice @ Purdue, 12:30
SEPT. 17	Colorado State @ Air Force, 8
SEPT. 19	Central Florida @ Purdue, 12:30
	LSU @ Auburn, 5
	Virginia Tech @ Miami (Fla.), 8
SEPT. 24	Arizona @ San Diego State, 8
SEPT. 26	Northwestern @ Wisconsin, 12:30
	Georgia Tech @ UNC, 7:30
OCT. 1	Syracuse @ N.C. State, 8
OCT. 3	Georgia @ LSU, 7
	Tennessee @ Auburn, 7
OCT. 8	Virginia Tech @ Boston College, 8
OCT. 10	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	LSU @ Florida, 7
OCT. 17	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	Michigan @ Northwestern, 7
OCT. 24	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	Florida St. @ Georgia Tech, 7
OCT. 29	San Diego State @ BYU, 8
OCT. 31	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	UNC @ Florida State, 7:30
NOV. 5	TBD, 8
NOV. 7	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	Syracuse @ West Virginia, 7:30
NOV. 12	Georgia Tech @ Clemson, 8
NOV. 14	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	Georgia @ Auburn, 7:30
	S. Carolina @ Florida, 7:30
	Arkansas @ Tennessee, 7:30
NOV. 19	Pittsburgh @ Miami (Fla.), 8
NOV. 21	B.C. @ West Virginia, 12
	Auburn @ Alabama, 7:30
NOV. 26	Mississippi State @ Missouri, 8
NOV. 28	Virginia @ Virginia Tech, TBD
ESPN 2	
SEPT. 3	Arizona @ Hawaii, 11
SEPT. 5	Wake Forest @ Air Force, 1
	Vanderbilt @ Mississippi State, 6
SEPT. 12	Iowa State @ Iowa, 12:30
	Georgia @ S. Carolina, 6
	Auburn @ Ole Miss, 6
	Arizona State @ BYU, 9
SEPT. 19	Louisville @ Illinois, 12:30
	Maryland @ West Virginia, 6
SEPT. 26	Pittsburgh @ Virginia Tech, 12
	Kentucky @ Florida, 6
	Alabama @ Arkansas, 6
	Miss State @ S. Carolina, 6
	Houston @ Tennessee, 6
OCT. 3	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	SEC, 6
OCT. 10	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	Cincinnati @ Syracuse, 5:30
	Purdue @ Wisconsin, 8:30
OCT. 17	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	Virginia @ Georgia Tech, 6
	Clemson @ Florida State, 6
	Kentucky @ LSU, 9
OCT. 24	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	SEC (TBD), 6
OCT. 31	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	Pittsburgh @ Syracuse, 6
	West Virginia @ Virginia Tech, 6
	WAC (TBD), 9
NOV. 7	Wake Forest @ N.C. State, 12
	Maryland @ UNC, 12
	SEC (TBD), 6
NOV. 14	Big Ten (TBD), 12:30
	TBD, 6
	WAC (TBD), 9
NOV. 21	BYU @ Utah, 1:30
	S. Carolina @ Clemson, 6
NOV. 28	SEC (TBD), 3:30
	Michigan @ Hawaii, TBD

All Times Eastern



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